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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Should the House of Representatives impeach Gov. Benigno R. Fitial?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

LOCAL

Community members young and old gathered at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center Friday evening to watch the 2012 Man'amko Talent Show. ➤ PAGE 6

ASIA

The wife of a disgraced Chinese politician was given a suspended death sentence Monday after confessing to killing a British businessman by poisoning him with cyanide in a case that rocked the country's top political leadership. ➤ PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE

Tony Scott, director of such Hollywood hits as "Top Gun," "Days of Thunder" and "Beverly Hills Cop II," died Sunday after jumping from a Los Angeles County bridge, authorities said. ➤ PAGE 18

Tropical depression now tropical storm. PAGE 2
Alarming turnover rate at NMC bared. PAGE 5

Lawsuit filed to stop $190M power deal

» Rep. Maratita also files taxpayer's lawsuit vs Fitial, Buckingham, CUC, Saipan Development LLC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Maratita

Rep. Janet U. Maratita (Ind-Saipan) filed yesterday a motion for temporary restraining order and a motion for preliminary injunction in Superior Court to prevent Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, former Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham, and Saipan Development LLC from pursuing the $190-million, 25-year power purchase agreement.

See LAWSUIT on Page 4

Other lawmakers support lawsuit vs Fitial, Buckingham

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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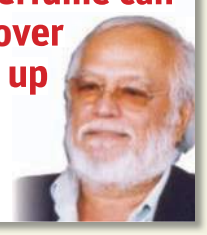
REPORTER

Rep. Janet Maratita's (Ind-Saipan) taxpayer's lawsuit against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham over a secretive $190-million power purchase agreement has drawn support from other lawmakers, while Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) described yesterday the 25-year contract as "smelly" and that no amount of "political perfume" can cover up that smell.

See LAWMAKERS on Page 4

» Stanley says contract 'smelly,' no amount of political perfume can cover it up



IF LEGISLATURE DOES NOT GIVE PSS $33M BUDGET FOR FY 2013

PSS to lawmakers: Some schools could have 'double sessions'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Education officials told lawmakers yesterday morning that some public schools could end up having "double sessions" if the Public School System fails to fill all vacant teacher positions for not receiving at least a $33 million budget for fiscal year 2013.

Marianas High School, for example, is projected to have a student-teacher

See PSS on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, visiting U.S. Department of Education senior risk and systems consultant Mark W. Robinson, USDOE senior risk management consultant Christine Jackson, CNMI Education Commissioner Rita Sablan, and Public School System federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh look on as lawmakers ask questions during a meeting yesterday morning on Capital Hill. Education officials told members of the House Education Committee that some public schools could end up having double sessions if PSS does not get at least a $33 million budget for fiscal year 2013.

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Local

Tropical depression now tropical storm

A tropical depression was formed northwest of the Marianas region yesterday morning and intensified into a tropical storm last night.

As of 7pm yesterday, Tropical Depression 16W was upgraded to tropical storm and has been named Bolaven. Its center was 300 miles west of Pagan, 365 miles northwest of Saipan, and 400 miles northwest of Guam.

As of 1pm yesterday, the center of then Tropical Depression 16W was 290 miles west of Pagan, 335 miles west-northwest of Saipan, and 365 miles northwest of Guam.

Tropical Storm Bolaven triggered heavy rain showers, causing flooding in some low-lying areas and roads on Saipan.

According to the U.S. National Weather Service, packing maximum sustained winds at 40 miles per hour, Tropical Storm Bolaven is moving toward the north-northwest at 7 mph.

As of 7pm yesterday, NWS said Bolaven is expected to slowly intensify during the next 24 to 48 hours.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos advised residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to take extra precautionary measures when driving on the highways due to heavy rain showers and possible flooding in low-lying places.

The Emergency Management Office urged the public to avoid inter-island travel by boat especially small vessels.

EMO also advised residents in the CNMI to avoid venturing near the shore as monsoon swell will create hazardous surf especially along west and south facing shores. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

Ex-convict sets man on fire

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An ex-convict was arrested shortly after he allegedly set on fire a man outside a store in Garapan Saturday morning.

Defendant Alfonso Ramon, 31, allegedly suspected that the victim is working for the Drug Enforcement Administration and responsible for having him arrested for selling marijuana.

The victim suffered second degree burns on the right arm, shoulder, back, and back of the neck. The left leg received burns to include a portion of the right foot just below the ankle. He is being treated at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Ramon was brought to the Superior Court yesterday on charges of attempted murder, assault and battery, aggravated assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos said a $50,000 cash bail is appropriate.

Preliminary hearing will be on Aug. 27 at 9am.

Detective Jeffrey I. Norita stated in his report that he responded to CHC on Saturday at 7:40am to meet a police officer who investigated the incident.

Norita said prior to the incident, the victim was looking for his friend at Martha's Store in Garapan to borrow money on Saturday past 2am.

When the victim failed to locate his friend at the store he instead handed a note to the cashier. He asked the cashier to give the note to his friend.

Later that morning, the victim went back to Martha's Store and saw his friend, defendant Ramon, and another man drinking alcoholic beverage by a car in the parking lot of the store.

Ramon confronted the victim that he (victim) was working with DEA and got him arrested for selling marijuana.

The victim's friend asked why he (victim) has to borrow $30 from him when he already lent him $60 the first time.

Ramon got angry and told the victim to borrow money from the Chuukese that he hangs out with and to stop bothering the Palauans to borrow money.

Ramon threatened he would get gasoline and pour it on the victim's body and burn him.

The victim's friend instigated Ramon to burn him for hanging out with the Chuukese.

Ramon left and later returned with a tea bottle and a rolled napkin that was burning.

Ramon then splashed the contents of the tea bottle on the victim's feet, igniting fire at his feet.

Ramon then splashed the burning contents on the victim's face, but the victim blocked it with his saddle bag.

As a result, the victim's right shoulder and arm started to burn. The victim threw himself to the ground and managed to extinguish the fire.

The victim then called 911.

ACTIVITIES FAIR
Mount Carmel School students are busy signing up for the American Red Cross during a recent Student Activities Fair on campus. The event is held every start of the school year and highlights the many extra-curricular activities students can sign up for at the only Catholic school on island.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC extends Fall 2012 registration for another week

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College announced yesterday that in its effort to accommodate more enrollees, it has decided to extend the registration period to another week.

Enrollment for Fall 2012 semester was supposed to end last Aug. 19. It is now extended until Aug. 24 at 4pm.

Throughout the extended registration period, only students who have completed admission requirements and have taken the English and math placement tests will be eligible to register.

Records as of yesterday show that the institution recorded a total of 1,191 full-time equivalent students during the first week of registration. Compared to the record obtained from NMC president Sharon Y. Hart last Friday, the figure shows an increase from 1,155 FTE recorded as of Thursday.

Last Friday, Dr. Hart provided a report to the board indicating that NMC recorded a total of 976 FTEs in the first four days of the weeklong registration for Fall 2011 semester compared to 1,155 recorded for Fall 2012 enrollees in the first four days of the registration period—or about 19 percent hike.

Hart, at the same time, told the Board of Regents Friday that the college, based on initial records, is anticipating a huge spike in enrollment. She said when this happens, this calls for re-assessment of its finances and re-structuring of some classes to accommodate increasing enrollees.

According to NMC dean of student services Leo Pangelinan, there are many factors that have encouraged many students to enroll at NMC. He said the college recruitment team has stepped up its efforts to encourage high school students to consider NMC to further their education.

"We have also engaged many students through various activities through the College Access Challenge Grant Program, including the Start Smart Seminars held last year on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. We've also had multiple information sessions where NMC asked current students to share their experiences with the community. We also hosted the highly successful Cash for College Seminar, which was aimed at helping students find financial assistance to pay for their college expenses," said Pangelinan, in a statement, adding that more than 400 students attended the last Cash for College event.

The CNMI Scholarship Office has also implemented new regulations requiring new scholarship applicants to attend NMC for their first two years of college in order to receive financial assistance. The college also now offers the TEACH Grant, which provides scholarship funds to students pursuing a teaching career.

According to Hart, NMC is also refocusing its recruitment efforts on adult students who have delayed enrollment for one reason or another. NMC has recently established a Climb Higher program that is aimed at recruiting adult students and providing them with the resources they need to earn a degree.

"While it is important that we look at the number of students served under our credit programs, it is equally important that we look at the numbers served in our non-credit programs like the Community Development Institute and the Adult Basic Education Program. In the last few years, the college served thousands of individuals in these non-credit programs," added the president.

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

3rd Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic

The 3rd Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic will be held on Saturday, Sept. 1, 2012, with proceeds raised to benefit Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC).

MTEC a non-profit organization comprised of individuals from both the private sector such as hotels and other businesses, as well as the public sector, including the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) and the Public School System. The council is invited interested individuals to join its annual general membership meeting on Sept. 20, 20120, at the MVA office.

The Docomo Pacific Golf Classic will tee off at 7:30 a.m. at Kingfisher Golf Links. The entry fee of $85 includes cart and green fee, on-course refreshment, and the awards banquet. Hole-in-one prizes include a 2012 Ford Fiesta from Joeten Motors, $10,000.00 from Bank of Hawaii and a 2013 Mazda 3 from Triple J Motors. Cash prizes will also be awarded to the Top 3 Low Net players.

Major sponsors include DFS Galleria, First Hawaiian Bank, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Mobil, McDonald's and MVA. Other contributors include Delta Air Lines, Marianas Management Corporation, Ace Hardware and Joeten Enterprises.

Applications are available at Docomo Pacific in Gualo Rai, where payment may also be made, and Kingfisher Golf Links. For more information, contact James Nelson at (670)483-4924.

MARIANAS
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This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Ex-CUC director unaware of new power purchase deal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Abe Utu Malae admitted to *Saipan Tribune* that he was not aware and was not privy of any plan or contract for the cash-strapped utilities firm to purchase a new power plant.

» Says new power plant unnecessary due to efficiency of Power Plant 1

Early this month, a $190-million, 25-year power purchase agreement was signed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, just days before they both left the island. Buckingham resigned from his post, while Fitial is on an official business trip.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Malae believes it is unnecessary for CUC to purchase a new power plant, citing the progress of the agency in refurbishing the Power Plant 1.

Malae

"I was not privy to this contract to purchase a new power plant but I do recall one of the legislators asking me at one of the hearings on Capitol Hill if CUC should just buy a new [diesel fired] power plant? My response was it was unnecessary because the continuing refurbishing of Power Plant 1 was making it more and more efficient," he said in an email.

Last July 1, CUC bought out the contract of independent power producer Pacific Marine Industrial Corp. for Power Plant 4 in the tune of $7.2 million to be paid in a 27-month term. The buyout would cost over $300,000 in monthly payment to CUC. The intention of CUC is to cut on expenditures and utilize Power Plant 4 for emergency loading only.

"Now that Power Plant 4 can be placed on standby, even greater overall generation efficiency for Saipan will be realized. That efficiency flows to the customers thanks to the way the fuel surcharge (levelized energy adjustment clause) is computed," said Malae.

The former executive director, however, revealed that "if a major improvement in RICE (reciprocating internal combustion engine) technology has been recently developed and of which I am unaware, then it is hoped that that technology is manifested in the proposed power plant."

He said it is a fairly straight forward engineering and economic exercise to determine if the new power plant makes sense.

Malae, who resigned last May due to perceived conflict with the Executive Branch, refused to comment further about the $190-million contract with Saipan Development LLC, citing he has not read the contract itself.

"I can understand the intent though: commission a new plant that will dramatically lower electricity costs to the people of the CNMI yesterday!" added Malae.

Fitial accepted Malae's resignation in May saying a leadership change at CUC is "necessary" and that the administration is not seeing evidence of aggressive action to seek out viable alternative energy sources that would provide cheap power to customers.

Saipan Tribune earlier inquired with CUC acting executive director Alan Fletcher about his thoughts on the new power deal. But Fletcher refused to comment and referred all media inquiries to the Executive Branch.

During last week's hearing at the Legislature, Fletcher admitted that he was present when the contract was signed by the governor and the former AG.

Message of Appreciation

We the family of Angel D. Salas, most especially Angel, his wife Tina and children, would like to extend our sincerest appreciation and Si Yuus Maase to everyone who one way or another showed overwhelming support and contribution during Angel's Medical Referral Golf Tournament Fundraiser held on August 11, 2012.

Our deepest thank you to all the golf players, businesses, donors, friends and relatives for your generous support and making this fundraising tournament a success!

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Wiseman increases to $50,000 cash bail for MMA fighter facing robbery

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman yesterday found probable cause to warrant the filing of charges against a mixed martial arts fighter accused of robbing a juvenile near Dandan Elementary School.

During the preliminary hearing, Wiseman found probable cause to believe that the crimes of robbery, theft, disturbing the peace, and criminal contempt were committed and that the person who may have committed the offenses is defendant Kevin I. Esteves.

Wiseman ordered the 21-year-old Esteves to answer the charges.

The judge, however, found no probable cause for the other criminal contempt and dismissed the count.

Wiseman increased the $25,000 cash bail to $50,000 cash in view of defendant's pending two criminal cases.

Detective John D. Cabrera stated in his report that police's investigations showed that it was Esteves who was responsible for robbing a 17-year-old male of his necklace and earrings in front of Dandan Elementary School on June 2, 2012.

Cabrera said two police officers responded to a store in Dandan on June 2 at 9:31pm after receiving a call about a theft complaint.

The victim told responding police officers that while he was walking south from his house on his way to KV PC Internet Shop, Esteves approached and confronted him if he was tough and wanted to fight.

The MMA fighter then allegedly began threatening the victim that he would beat him up and that he better not try to run because he would end up catching him.

The suspect later demanded the victim to hand over his silver necklace that he was wearing at the time.

The victim tried to persuade not to take his necklace, but Esteves allegedly threatened to kill him if he would not give the necklace and earrings.

When Esteves left, the victim proceeded to a store where he reported the matter to the police.

Esteves was still wearing the victim's necklace and earrings when a police officer confronted him. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

"I applaud her for filing the temporary restraining order and I support her actions 100 percent," said Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan).

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) said he welcomes the lawsuit although he thinks the contract is currently not moving anywhere.

"But I welcome anything that will keep it from not moving forward or not moving at all until we get to the bottom of this issue," he said.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said it was what the Senate intended when it adopted a resolution on Friday asking for the cancellation of the agreement until a full economic analysis is done.

But Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said absent proof that Saipan Development LLC has affixed its signature on the PPA, he cannot comment on the lawsuit at this time.

The administration has yet to comment on the lawsuit as of last night.

Maratita, through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, filed yesterday afternoon a taxpayer's lawsuit against Fitial, Buckingham, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Saipan Development LLC over the signing of the agreement.

The lawmaker also filed a motion for temporary restraining order and a motion for preliminary injunction in Superior Court to prevent Fitial, Buckingham, and Saipan Development LLC from pursuing the PPA.

Maratita asked the Superior Court to declare that the power purchase agreement is unconstitutional, illegal, unconscionable, and unjust, and therefore cancelled.

'Smelly, quickie contract'

Torres, chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, said based on several comments he received, "the consensus is that no matter how much political perfume the governor's office plans to spray on this mess, it will still smell of a sweetheart pile of wheeling and dealing crap."

"Island leaders are asking why is the Governor's Office attempting to invest in brand new and expensive fossil fuel-burning diesel engines for the power plant, when former CUC executive director Abe Malae had earlier reported that our existing diesel engines, if properly maintained, could last another 10 years or more?" Torres asked.

Besides, he said, there are public laws in place to transfer the CUC's power plant diesel engines to cheaper and cleaner renewable energy resources, which can be accomplished in the next 10 years.

Torres and Dela Cruz, also a member of the House PUTC Committee, have been combining their efforts to "get to the bottom" of what they described as "misguided bombshell that struck the CNMI," referring to the 25-year power purchase agreement between the Governor's Office and Saipan Development LLC.

The PPA has a guaranteed price of $190.8 million but it could easily exceed $200 million in 25 years because the CNMI also has to pay for fuel and maintenance fee, among other things.

Torres and Dela Cruz, in a joint statement, said they raised several unanswered questions about this "disconcerting quickie contract" with acting CUC executive director Alan Fletcher, "who kept repeating he couldn't answer the very pertinent questions until he cleared them first with his boss, governor Fitial, who is currently off-island."

They sought several missing documents through the CNMI Open Government Act, and the House PUTC will deliver a more final position statement once those documents are received.

"Even though I haven't seen the supporting documents, which CUC will most likely try to conceal through legal maneuvers, from what I've seen so far my impression of the contract can be summed up in one word: smelly," said Torres, a known Fitial ally.

Torres and Dela Cruz also said they are "disappointed in this latest display of lack of transparency."

Dela Cruz, also the chair of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Committee on Public Utilities and Infrastructure, earlier asked the Office of the Public Auditor to "investigate" Fitial and Buckingham's signing of the PPA.

Even acting governor Eloy S. Inos didn't know about Fitial and Buckingham's actual signing of the PPA until it was reported by the *Saipan Tribune* last week.

As of last night, there's no word yet from the administration whether it is already in possession of a copy of the PPA signed by Saipan Development LLC, which remains a mystery company organized in Delaware five days prior to signing an initial agreement with the CNMI in March.

This PPA is among the most expensive government contracts in CNMI history.

But unlike other hefty contracts, only a few knew about Fitial and Buckingham's signing of the 41-page PPA on Aug. 3.

That was a day before Buckingham left the CNMI and 11 days before Fitial left for a three-week trip to Hawaii, American Samoa, and Florida.

PSS

From Page 1

ratio of 45:1 and Hopwood Junior High School, 33:1.

Visiting U.S. Department of Education senior risk management consultant Christine Jackson, who also met with lawmakers yesterday, said a 45:1 student-teacher ratio is egregious.

She said the ideal student-teacher ratio is 20:1.

"So anything above 20 or 25, we're talking about a compromised situation. Even with the best teacher who can manage a classroom, 45 is a lot of students, unless you have a teacher aide," Jackson told reporters after a meeting with members of the House Committee on Education on Capital Hill.

Along with Jackson were USDOE senior risk and systems consultant Mark W. Robinson, CNMI Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, Board of Education chair Marylou Ada, and other PSS and BOE officials.

Sablan brought up the idea of "double session" with House members during discussion of PSS's proposed budget of $33 million for FY 2013

A double session means that teachers will teach in the morning and in the afternoon to accommodate students for both sessions.

Sablan said this is not an ideal situation, reiterating that a $33-million budget for PSS could prevent a double session.

"It's really incumbent upon passage of the budget for fiscal year 2013 so we're here, asking them to please give us the $33 million which will comply with the requirements of the maintenance of efforts. It will also allow us to put back all these positions that were vacated recently due to people relocating, resigning for retirement, or what not," she said.

The $114-million budget bill for FY 2013 is still with the Senate.

For PSS alone, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial proposed a budget of $29.5 million, much less than PSS' proposal of $40 million. But the House further cut the governor's PSS budget proposal to $28 million. There's no telling yet how much the Senate will give PSS.

At MHS, there are at least eight vacant teacher positions. At Hopwood Junior High School, about five, and about four at Kagman, where classes are very large.

Jackson said having a double session or not is the decision of PSS.

"Now whether a double session is going to work or not, sounds like a temporary fix. But if they can maximize the time that students are in the classroom whatever [academic] time that is… then it should meet the needs until they fix their budget issue," she said.

Jackson said the CNMI PSS maintains an impressive performance, although she said one of the red flags is a late audit.

"Right now you're late, that's why we've said it's a red flag. It doesn't mean you are going to be put on high risk… It's not a main issue right now because other things are in place but that is one of the indicators that put in the high risk in the beginning," she said.

Sablan said it is the whole CNMI that is late with the audit, and not only PSS. She said this has been addressed to the proper agency, hoping the latest audit will be released this month.

The education commissioner said besides leveraging PSS resources, the agency is looking at beefing up its student online program which now has some 500 students registered as of Friday.

LAWSUIT

From Page 1

Maratita, through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, described the deal as "of constitutional magnitude" and stated that this matter is of great public concern and interest because it involves a secret deal that will cost the CNMI taxpayers and ratepayers over $200 million in 25 years.

Maratita also filed yesterday a taxpayer's lawsuit against Fitial, Buckingham, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Saipan Development LLC over the signing of the power purchase agreement on Aug. 3, 2012.

The plaintiff is suing defendants Fitial, Buckingham, and CUC for taxpayer's right of action: illegal expenditure of public funds and breach of fiduciary duty.

Maratita asked the Superior Court to declare that the power purchase agreement is "unconstitutional, illegal, unconscionable, and unjust, and therefore cancelled."

As of press time, the Fitial administration had yet to reply to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for comment about the lawsuit.

The signing of the 41-page PPA on Aug. 3 happened a day before Buckingham left the CNMI and 11 days before Fitial left for a three-day trip to Hawaii, American Samoa, and Florida.

In the motions for TRO and preliminary injunction, Quichocho said unless and until enjoined and restrained by court's order, defendants' wrongful acts and conducts will cause Maratita and the people of the CNMI to suffer immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or damage.

Quichocho said as a result of defendants' wrongful acts, the lawmaker and the CNMI people's health, safety, and well-being will continue to be compromised and jeopardized as the meager resources of the Commonwealth are diverted to fund an illegal contract.

The lawyer asserted that Maratita's claims in the lawsuit raise substantial issues of CNMI constitutional and statutory laws and that there is a strong possibility that plaintiff will succeed on the merits in permanently enjoining defendants from expending over $190 million without the Legislature's appropriation and the Department of Finance's certification.

"It is clear that defendants, who seem to be purposely secretive about a multi-million dollar contract, will not take affirmative steps to stop the ongoing insanity, without court order," Quichocho said.

In the 21-page complaint, Maratita's introduction quoted U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's line "We have always known that heedless self-interest was bad morals, we now know that it is bad economics."

Quichocho said the PPA between Fitial, Buckingham, CUC, and the mysterious Saipan Development LLC, and all the agreements surrounding it, "are surely bitter economics, at best."

Quichocho said the PPA guarantees the payment of $190,827,300 to a mysterious company called "Saipan Development, LLC" that is incorporated in the State of Delaware on March 22, 2012.

The lawyer said the PPA also guarantees an undisclosed and yet-to-be-determined millions of dollars more in direct and indirect costs that the good people of the CNMI will be forced to pay.

Per the PPA, on March 27, 2012, Saipan Development LLC and the CNMI executed a Power Plant Development and Management Agreement by which Saipan Development was granted the exclusive right to develop a diesel generated electric power plant on Saipan.

Quichocho said the diesel plant agreement was made in secret and that not even the highest CUC official knew about such agreement.

"Nothing much is known about the terms and conditions of the diesel plant agreement, because it is still kept a secret and have not been leaked," Quichocho said.

Per the PPA on March 27, 2012, Saipan Development LLC and the Department of Public Lands executed an option to lease agreement "for certain real property on the island of Saipan which is intended to be the location of the plant."

Quichocho said the March 27, 2012 option to lease agreement was made in secret.

On Aug. 3, 2012, DPL executed an option to lease agreement between DPL and Saipan Development LLC, in which the latter was granted an exclusive option to lease the public lands occupied by CTSI and surrounding areas in Lower Base.

Quichocho said that, on Aug. 3, 2012, Fitial for CUC, and Buckingham for the Office of the Attorney General, executed the PPA with Saipan Development LLC.

Quichocho said there was no request for proposals issued for the project.

The lawyer said the PPA was leaked on Aug. 14, 2012 to the media and the public.

"On information and belief, not even the top CUC officials nor acting governor Eloy S. Inos knew about the power purchase agreement until it was leaked," he said.

Quichocho alleged that aside from the unfair and one-sided terms in favor of Saipan Development LLC, Fitial, Buckingham, and CUC have committed the taxpayers, including the ratepayers, to pay over $200 million of costs and expenses, for 25 years, for a diesel-powered power plant.

Quichocho said assuming Saipan Development LLC's Power Plant is operational in 2013, the PPA will expire in 2038.

The lawyer said defendants Fitial, Buckingham, and CUC breached their fiduciary duty to Maratita and the good people of the CNMI by entering into agreements requiring the guaranteed expenditure of public funds for 25 years, without fund certification or fund appropriation.

Alarming turnover rate at NMC bared

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College disclosed that the college continues to record a high personnel turnover rate, mainly due NMC's inequitable salary and compensation package.

Regent member Andrew Orsini described the college turnover record as alarming, citing the need for the board to act immediately or else more staff will depart the institution for good.

NMC president Sharon Y. Hart admitted to the board that since January this year, management recorded a total of 31 individuals who were recruited to fill positions that were mostly vacated by resignations and retirements last year. Recruitment for some other positions is ongoing.

Hart admitted that "salary is an issue" why the college finds it difficult filling some positions and she emphasized the need to comply with the standards of the accreditation commission, which mandates a fair compensation to staff and faculty of the college.

Hart disclosed that NMC is working on a strategic plan that will also provide data to the board to guide them in its decision-making.

Initially, Hart disclosed that many employees of NMC are receiving 50 percent lower wages compared to their counterparts in other institutions.

She said NMC employees were not provided any salary adjustment since 1999. Hart disclosed that NMC also lost a significant number of employees to other agencies and institutions which provide competitive wages.

From 198 full-time employees two years ago, NMC's workforce dropped to 175 in November 2011 until it reached 160 in June 2012. This was based on records of the college obtained by *Saipan Tribune* as of June this year.

According to regent William Torres, chairman of the board's ad-hoc committee, NMC must implement a systematic compensation and classification system that will contribute positively to recruitment, and most importantly, to retaining people to ensure the college's stability.

It was revealed during Friday's meeting that some two years ago, NMC commissioned a wage study that supposedly will be used by the former board in adjusting the salaries of employees. But this study, by an independent consultant, was not completed and therefore not executed.

"We are very supportive in providing commensurate compensation to the staff and faculty of the college. It is the ad-hoc committee position that this needs to be further pursued and to figure out a way to implement this plan," said Torres, adding that the adjustment can be done in full-scale or incremental basis depending on the availability of funds.

Saipan Tribune learned that no salary adjustments were made since 1999 because of lack of a budget to do so. This, despite the existence of a policy created by the board some 22 years ago.

The ad-hoc chairman has tasked the NMC president to come up with a comprehensive analysis on the present salary schedule of employees, a comparative analysis with peer institutions, and a recommendation from management on the equitable percentage to be provided to employees.

New law allows Board of Regents to make exceptions to basic residency requirements

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos signed into law on Friday a bill allowing Northern Marianas College's Board of Regents to make certain exceptions to the basic residency requirement.

Rep. Janet Maratita's (R-Saipan) House Bill 17-294, House Draft 1 is now Public Law 17-78.

"That's great news. Great also for NMC as they have been lobbying for its passage and now the acting governor signed it into law," Maratita, the bill's author, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Maratita, in her legislation, said it is in the CNMI's best interest to provide prospective students with greater access and with more opportunities to avail of the resident tuition rate in connection to their enrollment at NMC.

For instance, military personnel who are returning from duty should be afforded resident tuition rate upon their return.

Affording resident tuition to more students lowers the cost to education for prospective students, provides additional incentives for new students to enroll in degree programs, and provides additional incentives for some continuing students to remain enrolled, she said.

The newly signed law, however, has a sunset provision which is two years after the effective date or Sept. 30, 2014, whichever comes first.

Maratita also said it is important to allow NMC's Board of Regents to make exceptions to the 12-month basic rule for determining resident tuition because of the CNMI's efforts to become a member of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, or WICHE.

WICHE allows students from member states to benefit from significantly reduced tuition rates at various public institutions in the western United States, where many students from the CNMI are pursuing their post-secondary education.

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2012 MAN'AMKO TALENT SHOW

Man'amko prove they're 'never too old to play'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Community members young and old gathered at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center Friday evening to watch the 2012 Man'amko Talent Show.

The senior citizens sang, danced, read poetry, and even did the catwalk to entertain a crowd of about 140 to raise funds to support the various recreational programs at the Aging Center.

The event opened with Teresita Sorroza, president of the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council, delivering her open remarks followed by a special message from 2012 Liberation Queen Lydee Rose S. Pangelinan, who was joined by her Royal Court.

Friday's event drew cheers and applause as the *man'amko* delivered performances in line with the theme, "Never Too Old To Play."

Presenters in the dance field included Maxie and the Palauan Dance Group, Alejandra's Group Stick Dance, Ann T. Perry, Alejandra's Fireman Dance, and Paula Mereb & The Ropers. Eighty-four-year-old Abdon "Pepe" Tumaquip proved that age is not a deterrence for those who want to remain physically active as he stretched his limbs and danced to the tune of "Bad to the Bone."

Members of the audience also joined the seniors on stage as they all grooved to the beat throughout the dance performances.

The singing group, meanwhile, consisted of the Voices of Angels, comprised of Meryalen Conrad, Floria James, and Terry Sitae; Vicente "Ben" Laniyo, who also played the guitar; and Rosario Ibanez, who read her original poem. Rep. Joseph M. Palacios, former Aging director, played the drums in a special number that got the *man'amko* up their feet and on stage.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Aging Center clients called Paula Mereb and the Ropers perform for the crowd last Aug. 17 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center for the 2012 Man'amko Talent Show.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Seniors Advisory Council Teresita Sorroza talks to the candidates of the Ms. Northern Islands popularity pageant show which was part of the 2012 Man'amko Talent Show held Friday evening at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Three male seniors also brought down the house when they sashayed on stage in hilarious, ladylike outfits for the Ms. Northern Islands popularity pageant.

But the highlight of the event came when senior Meryalen "The Spitta" Conrad challenged Ben B., also known as The Human Beatbox, in the first ever beatbox battle in the history of the *man'amko*. Conrad's surprising ability to produce rhythmic sounds with her mouth fascinated the crowd, earning her the bragging rights and respect of her contender and the spectators.

The audience were also treated to a live performance by brothers Dean Manglona and Aging program coordinator Walter Manglona as they sang their hit song, "Chamorro Superman." Walter Manglona also performed with Ben B. and Guam's Tommy Boy Atalig for the new single, "My Pickup Line."

Walter Manglona said in an interview after the show that the turnout was "amazing" considering that it was more than what they expected.

"We're very happy that people actually came out to support the show… It's something for the *man'amko* to get out and exercise and stay happy and they enjoyed themselves. They were very happy that people showed up," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Manglona stressed that the show did prove that the *man'amko* are never too old to play. He said they are always trying to come up with something different to show the public what the *man'amko* can do. "We're always trying to look for innovative ways to set the bar higher and higher."

Aging director Rose Mondala, who also watched the show, said the money raised from the show will be used to host a gathering at a local hotel for the *man'amko*. "They're never too old to play and I'm really proud of them," she added.

Council president Sorroza, for her part, publicly acknowledged Manglona for all his work to help the *man'amko* prepare for the show and his efforts to constantly improve the programs at the Aging Center.

She also thanked the audience for coming to the show. "They stayed until the last minute and I really think it's worth coming to."

A raffle draw was also held to give away prizes that included deluxe tickets to the Sandcastle show at Hyatt Regency Saipan, gift certificates to Rainbow Photo, a copy of Walter Manglona's CD album, and other donated items.

DUE TO HEAVY DOWNPOUR

Many families exposed to sewer system backflows

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Residents living in low-lying villages are now suffering not only from consistent flooding in their areas, but are also exposed to some health risks due to sewer system backflows.

Bureau of Environmental Health director John Tagabuel disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that since last week, the agency has been receiving numerous calls from families who are seeking assistance either through BEH assessment of their home condition or temporary relocation to safer grounds.

Tagabuel confirmed that two indigent families have already been advised by BEH to temporarily relocate due to the threat of diseases to the children and elderly as a result of their exposure to saturated waste pool that flows from septic tanks or sewer system in their own residences or from nearby areas.

BEH inspectors, he said, immediately respond to complaints and are always on standby ready to assist families, especially during heavy downpour.

According to Tagabuel, many private residents have defective septic tanks which water flows directly to their houses or areas within their homes. This situation, he said, is evident during the rainy season. But Tagabuel admitted that because of successive downpours since last week, the situation has become critical now than before. BEH received most complaints from the Kagman area.

The director explained that in a situation like this, BEH makes assessment on the affected homes and makes a determination if there's a need to relocate families to safer ground. Most of those affected, he said, are indigent families who have no resources to immediately relocate to apartments or any place for safety.

He revealed that some non-government organizations like the CNMI Red Cross Chapter are always on standby to assist affected families.

Tagabuel disclosed that if heavy rains continue, there will be greater impact to low-lying areas such as Chalan Laulau all the way to the San Antonio area, even if residents have good septic tanks. BEH, he said, is ready to provide assistance.

He revealed that the absence of a good drainage system in many homestead areas also contribute to the problem as well as the ongoing road projects near the area.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that BEH is responding to numerous requests to "assess conditions of liveability of private homes."

Babauta disclosed that the health issues are neither from defective system or saturated ground waste pool or ponding basins.

The BEH, the CEO said, has placed bureau inspectors on "ready status" to respond to any further calls from the general public to assist during this inclement weather.

Babauta said Tagabuel, with the assistance of Public Health Risk Communicators, will soon issue a "mosquito and leptospirosis advisory" for public dissemination and notice.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS orientation this Thursday

Marianas High School will be holding an orientation for all incoming freshman and new and transfer students this Thursday, Aug. 23, 9am in the MHS Gym.

We encourage parents and guardians to also attend because there will be policies and important information that will be shared. During the orientation, students will also be getting their picture taken for their student ID. Should you have any questions, please call the school at 237-3206/3/5. ***(PR)***

The Friends of the Arts to stage *Deathtrap* on October

The Friends of the Arts is pleased to announce its next theatrical presentation, the Broadway success *Deathtrap*, scheduled for Oct. 12, 13, and 14. Written by Ira Levin, *Deathtrap* holds the record as the longest running comedy-thriller on Broadway. The FOA production of this two-act play will be directed by Harold Easton.

If you have any questions, call Frank L. Gibson, the managing producer, at 287-7476. ***(FOA)***

Revenue & Taxation open on Aug. 31

Department of Revenue and Taxation wishes to inform all CNMI residents that its office will be open on Aug. 31,2012. The division would like to remind the general public that July 2012 Business Gross Revenue Tax return file is due on Aug. 31. ***(PR)***

Air Force, Navy to conduct training at FDM, WA 517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at W-517 on Aug. 22-23 from 8am to 5pm

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Aug 23 from 9am to 5pm.

The general public-especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators-are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises.

This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***

Demapan off to GOP Convention

Dr. Ignacia "Acha" Tudela-Demapan yesterday left for Tampa, Florida to attend the National Republican Party Convention.

As the CNMI's Republican Party candidate for the U.S. Congress she will be focused on meeting as many of the 242 Republicans in the House of Representatives and the 47 Republican senators presently in Congress.

The National GOP has been supportive of her candidacy and waiting for the people of the CNMI to send a GOP delegate to Congress.

Demapan is preparing for the possibility of being elected and she views this as an opportunity to attend the Convention for the people of the CNMI. She will use the Convention as an opportunity to learn and to lay the foundation for her to have genuine success in representing the CNMI people in Congress if elected.

"It has been over three decades since the CNMI has initiated legislation in Congress and it was passed and approved by the President. We have continued to fail in getting any Legislation passed into law after four years of having a sitting Delegate in Congress. It will be my quest at the Convention to secure the genuine support of the Republican Party's voting power in Congress for our people to get Legislation passed in Congress and signed by the President for the CNMI," said Demapan.

She believes that "it is time for the CNMI to move ahead politically by implementing the use of technology and science, and to gain as many friends and supporters across the United States political spectrum."

Demapan will be returning early next month when she will announce her platform that will be highlighted by her proposed "Delegate Polling System" which should resolve any questions about her integrity, her ability to help the people, and her ability to be a problem-solver.

The polling system will end a great deal of the political fighting the CNMI people have experienced over the years.

"The delegate's office and branches of our government will be held more accountable to the people with the infusion of a polling system into our politics," she said.

Demapan said she will be presenting her platform in a gathering for the Women of the CNMI early next month upon her return from the mainland. ***(PR)***

600 troops from Guam, CNMI prepare for Afghan deployment

GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

Members of the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment listen to a briefing during a recent Soldier Readiness Processing in August this year.

Major General Benny M. Paulino, Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, last week announced that the 1-294th Infantry Regiment and F Company, 29th Brigade Support Battalion, received mobilization orders for their deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, effective for early next year.

"The mobilization order solidifies what our battalion will be doing, provides the funding and authority for the mobilized unit to move from home station forward, and locks in the number of soldiers assigned to the mission," said Paulino.

Guam National Guard senior leaders are currently working with the Department of the Army on the specific mission, number of soldiers, deployment date, and deployment location which will be announced at a later date. Close to 600 soldiers are slated to deploy as part of the battalion.

"The coming weeks and months will be a critical period for our soldiers in the battalion and F Company, as well as a highly emotional time for their families. Our island community has already demonstrated their strong support for our soldiers and their families with the units that have previously deployed. I am certain we will see that same degree of support."

"And as we continue to prepare our soldiers for this upcoming deployment, I can assure the people of Guam that our soldiers will be well-prepared and highly trained, to be ready to go and accomplish their mission. Here at home, we will be committing all the resources at our disposal, to ensure our deployed soldiers families are provided all the support they need," Paulino said.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Tougher, commander of the 1-294th IN RGT, said the official release of the battalion's mobilization order will help his soldiers continue with their preparation for the pending deployment.

"The 1st battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment and the Guam National Guard have been working hard to ensure that our soldiers are trained and equipped to safely perform the units upcoming mission in Afghanistan. The recent publishing of the unit's mobilization order helps to ensure that resources will continue to be available as we work to ensure that our soldiers receive the very best preparation the Army can provide," he stated.

The unit received a "Notification of Sourcing" on April 2011 and was told to prepare for a possible deployment to Afghanistan in 2013. Last April, the battalion received an official "Alert Order" which allowed the unit to ramp up training for possible deployment.

The 1-294th IN RGT is composed of soldiers from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The activation of the 1-294th IN RGT can be considered as the largest group of reserve component troops to be mobilized and deployed from Guam. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/FHWA-12-IFB-007

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A BUCKET TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TRAFFIC SECTION, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Delivery of Bucket Truck for the Department of Public Works Traffic Section, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project consists of the supply and delivery of Bucket Truck for the Department of Public Works Traffic Section, Saipan. The project package will be available on or after, **August 7, 2012**, at the Department of Public Works Traffic Section, 2nd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building, Saipan.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is not available because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

Proponents are advised that submission of multiple proposals, or alternative approaches to specific sections of the requirements, will be considered non-compliant and those proposals will be qisqualified.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **August 28, 2012** to Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan or faxed to (670) 322-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-12-IFB-007"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, **August 30, 2012**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 2:00 p.m. local time **August 30, 2012**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 30, 2012**, AND must received no later than **September 11, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m. local time, **September 13, 2012**, however, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m. local time, on **September 4, 2012.**

The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance Bond equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of performance bond.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ VICENTE B. CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/FHWA-12-IFB-008

TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM UPGRADE-ISLAND WIDE, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Traffic Signal System Upgrade-Island Wide, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **August 14, 2012** at the Department of Public Works, **Traffic Section Office**, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building, Gualo Rai Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. However, the local Business Preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

There will be a *Mandatory* **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 31, 2012**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room Gualo Rai Office. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **September 12, 2012 to Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the proepective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-12-IFB-008"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **September 18 2012**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **September 18, 2012**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 18, 2012** and must be received no later than **September 28, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **October 3, 2012**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on **September 25, 2012**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty **(180) working days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the standard Specification for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects, FP-03

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

USDA grant available to CNMI farmers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Agricultural producers in the CNMI and across the nation are encouraged to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development's program that would aid agricultural producers increase the value of their products by producing bio-based products from agricultural commodities.

The Value Added Producer Grant program has up to $14 million worth of grants available to help farmers and ranchers meet the program's goals, which are generating new products, creating and expanding marketing opportunities, and increasing producer income.

Competitively awarded, the grants are available for planning activities or for working capital expenses, but not for both. For planning grants, the maximum grant amount is $100,000, while the cap for working capital grants is $300,000.

"The funds in this program enable America's farmers, ranchers, and rural business owners to find ways to expand their product offerings, revenue streams and create more economic opportunity by bringing additional value to what they already produce," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said in a statement.

"Producers can greatly enhance the bottom line of their businesses and improve their economic prospects when they improve the value of their products, thus expanding their markets and customer base," he added.

Vilsack underscored that many producers are missing out on "significant" economic opportunities when their products are enhanced further away from the farm.

"When our producers keep their value-added activities closer to the farm, it not only improves their bottom line; it strengthens our rural economy and strengthens our rural communities," he said.

While businesses of all sizes are encouraged to apply, priority will be given to operators of small and medium-sized farms or ranches that are structured as family farms, beginning farmers or ranchers, or those owned by socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

Among the beneficiaries of the VAPG program are Unruh Greenhouse LLC in West Union, Iowa, which received a working capital grant to process and package local produce for nearby grocery stores, universities, and hospitals; and Schmidt Farms Inc. in Rawlins County, Kansas, a family farm that has been in the meat business for 25 years and received a working capital grant to expand the market for their product lines which are marketed as being produced locally and produced farm fresh.

Grants under the VAPG program are available for projects up to 36 months in duration. Deadline for application is on October 15.

For information on how to apply, see page 48951 of the August 15, 2012 Federal Register, http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-08-15/pdf/2012-20082.pdf or contact the Rural Development office in Guam at (671) 472-7361.

5th PIC Palooza to benefit MINA

» Event set on Aug. 25

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The environmental group Mariana Islands Nature Alliance is this year's beneficiary for the 5th Annual Palooza hosted by the Pacific Islands Club.

The fundraising event, slated for 7pm on Saturday, Aug. 25 at Charley's Bar, will have the theme "Rocky Horror Picture Show."

Past Palooza events have helped raise funds for various organizations with a cause, such as Guma Esperansa, Karidat, Beautfiy CNMI, and PAWS.

"We believe that it is most important to protect the island's environment and PIC wanted to help MINA continue with its mission," said PIC manager Glenn Policare on why MINA was chosen as the beneficiary.

Entrance fee to the 5th Annual PIC Palooza is $25 per person, inclusive of a scrumptious buffet menu, beer, wine, and soda.

The event will feature live entertainment by the PIC Clubmates, fun games, and exciting raffle prizes for the guests.

MINA executive director Sam Sablan said that PIC Palooza is one way to support their programs and have fun at the same time.

"MINA is grateful to Pacific Islands Club for considering MINA as its 2012 Palooza beneficiary," Sablan said in a statement. "It is through the generosity of businesses like PIC that MINA continues to rely on to support its community programs that help promote environmental stewardship."

She added, "MINA will continue to raise critical funds necessary to support non-profit accounting services, marine education and outreach costs, and volunteer appreciation and support."

For more information about the 5th Annual PIC Palooza, call 237-5101 or 5148.

PTA MEETING CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The K-5 class of Green Meadow School in Chalan Kiya held its first Parent-Teachers Association meeting last Friday. Seen here are the parents who attended the meeting along with K-5 adviser Sony Natividad, fifth from right.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Birthday greetings go out to Nida Cabay who is celebrating her birthday today. Greetings from your Shirley's Coffee Shop Susupe family.

Happy birthday to Jasmine Masga King Kaipat. May you have many more to come and may God bless you. Enjoy your special day. Greetings from friends and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 21, 2000

Improve administration of scholarship program

Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona has prodded the Senate Committee on Health, Education and Welfare to lessen bureaucracy in the administration of scholarship grants and financial aid to local students attending college. He said funds to be spent for such purpose should be funneled instead to increasing the appropriation for the government scholarship program in order to benefit more students. "In setting up administration of a student loan or scholarship program, please do not increase the cost of government," Mr. Manglona said in his testimony to the Senate panel, which is reviewing proposed changes to the existing program.

Tinian wants its own marine conservation site

Tinian officials have proposed designation of areas north of the island, including surrounding waters, as conservation site to safeguard marine resources that have depleted in recent years due to unregulated activities. The proposed sanctuary will encompass the northern edge of the municipal breakwater to Puntan Diablo Point and Barcinas Bay, along the shoreline from Tinian Harbor to Nasarinu Beach. The protection of marine life in this area will be best accomplished by establishing a marine reserve within which fishing and other potentially harmful activities shall be restricted, according to a bill sponsored by Tinian Rep. Norman S. Palacios. Killing or removing, and any attempt to do so, any marine animal, such as fish, live or dead coral, lobster, shellfish, clams, octopus or vegetation will be prohibited under the proposed law.

Aug. 21, 2001

Reyes pleads innocence on child abuse charges

Former chief-of-police Antonio Aldan Reyes yesterday entered a plea of not guilty on the three counts of child abuse charges filed against him before the Superior Court. The 47-year old Reyes, who was released sometime last week on an unsecured bail, was assisted by his counsel, Michael Dotts, when he was arraigned yesterday before the courtroom of Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan. Manibusan scheduled the status conference of the case on January 2. Commenting on his client's plea, Dotts said: "Everyone is presumed innocent and there's a process."

Bill banning vehicles' use of road junked

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has vetoed a bill that would have prohibited heavy equipment vehicles from using the Chalan Tun Antonio Apa road in Fina Sisu, saying the bill lacks enforcement and penalty provisions that would make it effective. At the same time, Tenorio said that Senate Local Bill 12-8 contains imprecise language and several typographical errors that must be addressed first before the bill is signed into law. In a letter sent to Senate President Paul A. Manglona and House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, Tenorio said that, for a more efficient implementation, "it is recommended that the bill include enforcement and penalty provisions."

Aug. 21, 2002

Governor's Friday speech is still 'the talk' at the Hill

Four days after Gov. Juan N. Babauta spoke to the Legislature, the fallout from that speech was still reverberating inside the legislative chambers, with Senate and House leaders standing on opposite sides of the fence. Senate President Paul A. Manglona said the message he got is that the Legislature and the Babauta administration should be working together, while House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider characterized it more as a personal rebuke on him by the Governor. "I understand that some House members are unhappy but let me tell you that sometimes, we need messages like that and I think that the message is clear: that we should be working together," said Manglona.

Red Cross Club 200 gets $20K donation

The Northern Marianas Chapter of the American Red Cross got a big boost for its annual Club 200 fundraiser with a $20,000 donation of cash and in-kind support from Tan Holdings Corporation. In its 15th year, Club 200 will be held on October 13, as part of a three-day Mardi Gras-style "Carnivale" fundraiser at the American Memorial Park. Last week, Tan Holdings executives Jerry Tan and Lynn Knight presented the $10,000 cash donation from the company's charitable foundation, along with a plan for an additional $10,000 in-kind support to Red Cross officials.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Twelfth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, August 22, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room in Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary**
  1) Call to Order
  2) Roll Call
  3) Adoption of Agenda
  4) Adoption of Minutes
    a) August 08, 2012 Special Board Meeting
II. **Public Comments**[1]
III. **Reports**
  1) Chair
  2) Board Committees
    a) FPA
    b) ISA
    c) LIA
    d) CIP
    e) Student Services & Parental/Community Programs (SSPCP)
  3) Commissioner of Education
    i. Financial Matters
      a. Federal
      b. Local
    ii. Other Matters
IV. **Unfinished Business**
V. **New Business**
  1. Revised Consolidated Grant for FY2013
  2. CNMI Teacher Shortage Area for SY2012-2013
VI. **Executive Session**[2]
  1) Legal Updates
  2) Personnel
  3) Other matters
VII. **Miscellaneous Matters**
  1. Contract Renewal for State Board of Education Staff
VIII. **Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting**
IX. **Adjournment**

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Meeting of the Board is scheduled on Friday, August 24, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
  a. Call to Order
  b. Roll Call
  c. Adoption of Agenda
II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
III. **ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
  a. Memorandum of Agreement – ADA Compliance Retrofit of Marianas Medical Referral Center
IV. **FISCAL AFFAIRS**
  a. FY 2012 Financial Statement as of July 31, 2012
  b. FY 2011 Audit Update
V. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
VI. **OTHER MATTERS**
VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
P.O. Box 520059 Tinian, MP 96952
Tel: (670) 433-2200 Fax: (670) 433-1819
Email: tinianscholarship@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, August 23, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Mayor's Office Conference Room, 1st Floor, in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Election of Officer
    a. Chairman
  3. Adoption of Agenda
  4. Adoption of Minutes
    a. 05/23/2012 Regular Board Meeting
II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**[1]
III. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**[2]
IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
  1. Adoption of Emergency Regulations as Permanent Regulations
  2. Review and Adoption of By-Laws
V. **NEW BUSINESS**
  1. Review and Approval of Spring 2012 Semester, Academic Year 2011-2012 Appeals.
  2. Approval and Adoption of Fall 2012 Semester, Academic Year 2012-2013 Application Deadline Extension
  3. Review and Adoption of the First Batch of Fall 2012 Semester, Academic Year 2012-2013 Applications
  4. Determination of Disbursement of the First Batch of Fall 2012 Semester Awards
VI. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**
VII. **DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING**
VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

/S/ LYDIA F. BARCINAS
Acting Chairwoman

[1] We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
Individuals with disabilities requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB Office 48hours prior to scheduled meeting for assistance.

IN 77TH ANNIVERSAY OF ESTABLISHMENT

Social Security pumps in $25M into CNMI economy

Last week marked the 77th anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. Social Security program and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan said nobody can underestimate the value of the program to the American people.

"At 77 years of age the U.S. Social Security system is old enough to retire. But too many people in the Northern Marianas and throughout the United States depend on Social Security to ever let the program stop working," he said.

In the Northern Marianas, Sablan said Social Security is helping 1,255 *man'amko* enjoy their retirement and provides financial assistance to 1,331 surviving parents, spouses, and children, as well.

He added that Social Security's Supplemental Security Income supports another 1,022 residents of the Marianas, who are aged, blind, or disabled.

"Together these programs pump $25 million a year into our local economy. So in a very real way we are all benefiting," he said.

The congressman also updated CNMI residents on his efforts to help local civil servants get back into the program.

"In May 2009 I met with Mr. Michael Astrue, head of the Social Security Administration. Based on our talk I recommended to the governor and the Legislature that they take a new look at the old decision to keep CNMI government employees out of Social Security. Today, the Commonwealth is moving toward giving our government employees the same security of belonging to the national retirement system that our private sector workers enjoy," he said.

Sablan said he supports that change of policy, "Because the Commonwealth won't be able to dodge its employer contribution to the Internal Revenue Service the way it dodged paying the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund. The Social Security benefit may not be as generous, but at least CNMI government workers will have a benefit they can really count on."

He added that the 111th Congress was able to provide Social Security recipients with a special $250 cost-of-living payment, and this year benefits rose another 3.6 percent. "In Congress I will continue to support the Social Security system, which provides peace of mind to our seniors and their families."

He also reiterated what President Franklin Roosevelt said on signing the Social Security Act 77 years ago last week, "We can never insure one hundred percent of the population against one hundred percent of the hazards and vicissitudes of life, but we have tried to frame a law which will give some measure of protection to the average citizen and to his family against … poverty-ridden old age." ***(PR)***

MTEC seeks new members

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Benavente, arms crossed, visits with the Marianas High School Tourism & Hospitality Class during school year 2011-2012. MTEC will continue its educational outreach to students this school year and is inviting new members to its annual membership meeting on Sept. 20, 2012, at the Marianas Visitors Authority office.

The Marianas Tourism Education Council is seeking new members to join its tourism education initiative.

MTEC will hold its annual general membership meeting on Sept. 20 beginning 3:30pm at the Marianas Visitors Authority office on Beach Road, Oleai, where election of officers will also take place.

This school year, MTEC will continue its focus on educational presentations at Northern Marianas public and private schools.

"Since we started school presentations two years ago, we have seen the students become more aware of the importance of tourism and, more importantly, become more active in supporting the CNMI visitor industry. We even have students contacting us directly, asking how they can get involved," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "MTEC stands ready to help advisors in forming their own MY WAVE (Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Clubs to channel the students' new enthusiasm."

Benavente added the next MTEC-MY WAVE Tourism Summit for MY WAVE clubs is tentatively set for October 2012. Over 400 students attended last year's summit, where they learned about the industry and spent time developing their own action plans for the school year.

MTEC is also prepping for the Sept. 1 Docomo Pacific Golf Classic, which will donate its proceeds to the nonprofit organization.

"We're very appreciative to Docomo for supporting MTEC for a third year with this event," said Benavente. "We invite all our golfers to come out and support MTEC's efforts through the tournament."

Currently MTEC officers are president Benavente and treasurer Chris Lubi. The council is comprised of individuals from both the private sector such as hotels and other businesses, as well as the public sector, including the MVA and the Public School System. ***(MVA)***

All set for Energy Star® CFL Giveaway Program

The Department of Public Works /Division of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant office, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., will be holding its first Energy Star® Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFL's) Giveaway Program in an effort to promote energy conservation through the distribution of Energy Star® compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's) to help residential consumers reduce energy consumption and cost.

Staff from the Division of Energy will be available at CUC customer service/payment centers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to distribute CFLs on the following dates:

- Tinian: Aug. 27-28 from 9am to 3pm
- Rota: Sept. 4-5 from 9am to 3pm
- Saipan: Sept. 17-20 from 9am to 3pm

To receive the CFL Giveaway consisting of four different wattages of CFLs, residential consumers must present their utility billing stub/receipt, complete with their name and customer number. Giveaways are limited to only one per household and while supplies last.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the DPW/Division of Energy -EECBG Office at 670-664-4487 or 664-4489.

Funding opportunities for this program is made possible from an ARRA Grant through the U.S. Department of Energy-Energy Conservation Block Grant Program. ***(PR)***

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff, -v- **MARIANO S. NAPUTI,** Defendant	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 05-0382** **EIGHTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 3, 2006, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 334, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, and containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 08, the original of which was recorded on May 14, 1990, as Document No. 90-1905, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 24, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of July, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, August 24, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (May 4, 2012)

II. CORRESPONDENCES

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS
1. Financial Affairs Committee
2. Airport Facilities Committee
3. Seaport Facilities Committee
4. Personnel Affairs Committee

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

V. OLD BUSINESS
1. None

VI. NEW BUSINESS
1. Personnel Matters: Employment Contract/Renewal
2. Personnel Reclassification Requests
3. Adoption of Fiscal Year 2013 Budget
4. Saipan International Airport's Training Room Conversion to Storage Area
5. Saipan International Airport's Emergency Generator Upgrade Change Order No. 7
6. Supplemental Budget Requests:
   a. ARFF
   b. Rota Airport
   c. Tinian Airport
7. Ricondo & Associates Rate Study

VII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION/Legal Counsel Report

X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors

August 20, 2012

July 23, 2012

TO: ENRIQUE Q. SALAS and ROSARIO T. SALAS:

You are in default in your Promissory Note dated June 30, 2007, secured by a Real Estate Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot No. 002 G 245, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 903 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1904, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage: June 30, 1997; $11,765.07

(c) Amount due for principal: $349.32 as of June 1, 2012

(d) Amount due for interest: $2,400.68 as of June 1, 2012

(e) Daily accruing interest: $0.75

If the principal, interest, and late charges $2,750.00 as of June 1, 2012, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30) day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Ti un Komple I kontratan debimu (Promissory Note) ni un fitma gi Junio dia 30, 2007, ni afabobot i Real Estate Mortgage ma asegurao i tano yan guma ni un empeña gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega i empeña (Mortgage) guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) I deskripsion tano ni ma empeñen (mortgaged):

Sitio Numeru 002 G 245 ni gaigi Kagman II, Saipan, Islas Marianas, san kattan, ni ha konsiste un aria 903 quadrao metro, mas pat menus, mas partikulamenti diskribi gi Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07, gi Mayo dia 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's Office File No. 90-1904, Saipan, guihi I discripcion ni ma incorporate guini ginen I infotmasion.

(b) I kantida yan I fechan este na debi yan empepeña: Junio 30, 1997; $11,765.07

(c) Kantida un debi para principat: $347.32 asta ki June 1, 2012

(d) Kantida un debi para interes: $2,400.68 asta ki June 1, 2012

(e) Interes kada dia: $0.75

Yangin ti un apasi i kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) $2,750.00, yan i reasonable na apas abugado gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di i fecha ni un resibe esta na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple i kontratamu (default), ya siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma dendi i propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontra minagahet-na pot i apudera sino komo i pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asientadu a apudera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este i trenta (30) dias siklo man infotfotma hao pot i apudera sino komo i pattida para un kontra, pues bai ni henta information pot i dibi-mu dispues un ma kattayi i kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resibe i katta-mu gi halom trenta (30) dias siklo, bai in nai'i hao I na'an yan address I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na katta para u ma na'kesiña ma rikohi I dibi-mu. Maseha hafa na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu rekohi para este I dibi-mu.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 198

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

No asterisk to the 14th Amendment

For years, New Jersey barred U.S.-born college students from receiving state financial aid if their parents were in this country illegally. Last week, a state court of appeals put an end to that misguided policy, finding that education officials had wrongly denied aid to an 18-year-old student born and raised in the United States because her Guatemalan mother is an undocumented immigrant. Though it is binding only in New Jersey, the ruling should serve as a warning to other states—such as Florida, where U.S.-born residents are required to pay out-of-state college tuition simply because their parents are undocumented.

The 14th Amendment states: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside." Moreover, the Supreme Court in 1898 specifically elucidated the significance of that language when it held that a Chinese man born in San Francisco to Chinese parents nonetheless was an American citizen by virtue of his birthplace. There is no asterisk in the 14th Amendment or the high court's jurisprudence that grants states the authority to create a two-tier system of citizenship.

Beyond flouting well-established law, the only thing such discriminatory policies achieve is to discourage many young people from attending college. That's not good for anyone. This country needs more doctors, scientists and high-tech workers, not a less-educated workforce that struggles to compete globally.

Americans are divided over how to address the issue of illegal immigration. Some take a particularly hard line and have tried to change the definition of who is and isn't a citizen. That has led to some egregious falsehoods — notably that undocumented immigrants are coming across the border to have "anchor babies" who will secure citizenship for their parents. Here is a fact: A child born in this country can't request any immigration benefit for a parent, such as a green card, until he or she turns 21, and even then many face long delays.

Trying to control immigration by punishing children born in this country is unconstitutional and dumb. States should drop those efforts before the courts force them to.

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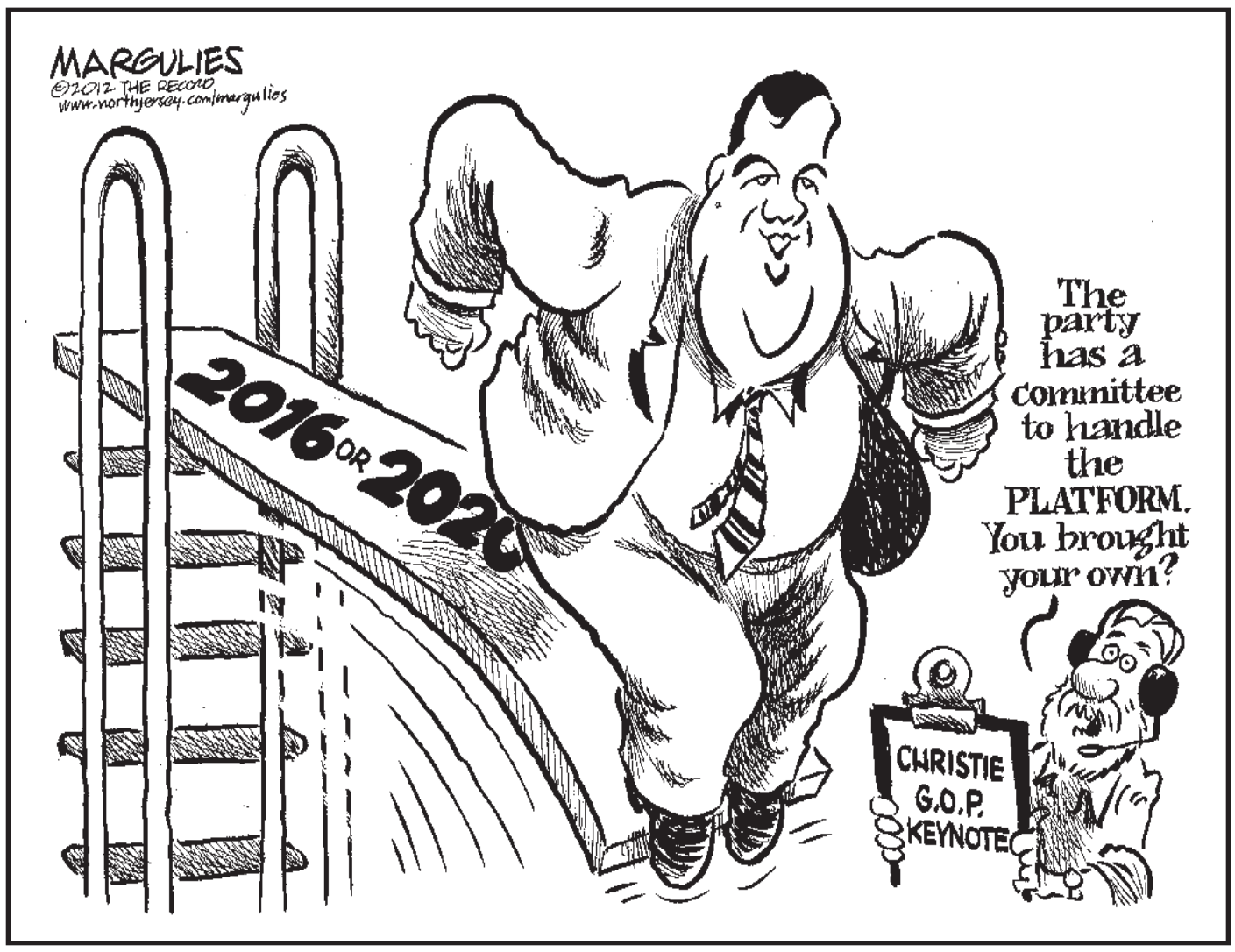
MARGULIES
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2016 OR 2020
The party has a committee to handle the PLATFORM. You brought your own?
CHRISTIE G.O.P. KEYNOTE

Japan needs a new economic miracle

By YURIKO KOIKE
Los Angeles Times

Yuriko Koike, a former defense minister, national security advisor and chairwoman of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, is currently an opposition leader in the Diet. This piece is adapted from a longer version for Project Syndicate.

TOKYO—Has Japan's political paralysis finally lifted? The agreement last week between the government and leading opposition parties to double the consumption tax—the sales tax—from 5 percent to 10 percent by 2015 suggests that it has. But there is a real risk that the government will mistake this measure for the end of the economic reform process. In fact, it is—or should be—only the beginning.

By virtually any measure, official Japanese debt is the highest in the world. The total outstanding volume of Japanese government bonds is an almost unfathomable $9 trillion, just below the $10.5 trillion in outstanding debt for the 17-country Eurozone, which has more than triple the population.

So grim has Japan's fiscal position become that bond issuance now exceeds tax revenue. Taxes cover less than half of government spending. And last year's earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster only made a grim fiscal picture worse by requiring huge new spending on reconstruction. Japan issued a record $693.5 billion, or 12 percent of nominal GDP, in government bonds during the last fiscal year.

Japan's fiscal problems, of course, have been mounting for decades. Indeed, annual tax revenue has fallen 30 percent since the country's property bubble burst in 1989, owing to slow growth and deflation. Tax cuts implemented as stimulus measures during the 1990s recession also played a subsidiary role.

The reason Japan has been able to sustain its fiscal position as the world's third-largest economy is that 93 percent of its debt is domestically held. Indeed, in contrast to the foreign capital flight that has so damaged Europe, willing foreign buyers of Japanese government bonds are plentiful, pushing interest rates to their lowest level ever.

Moreover, Japan's private sector—its households and companies—sits atop a mountain of savings, which is mostly used to purchase government bonds. Because the government can still borrow mainly from the Japanese people, its balance sheet remains stable. But how long can that continue, given the aging of Japan's population?

Most leading Japanese economists believe that the situation cannot be sustained, given that the large number of households consisting of pensioners is increasingly drawing down savings. The share of those age 65 and older has nearly doubled over the last two decades, to 23%, compared with 13% for the U.S. and more than 16% for Europe. If this trend continues, as seems likely, the market that government bonds have had for decades will begin to shrink dangerously. At that point, foreign purchasers are unlikely to pick up the slack.

In reaching the agreement to raise the consumption tax, the opposition Liberal Democratic Party insisted that one of the biggest contributors to the budget deficit—the amount spent on social security benefits for Japan's retirees—be addressed. But the agreement actually does nothing to fix that problem.

The large number of aged and retired people means that spending on healthcare and social security now consumes 29.2 percent of the budget, a one-third increase since 2000. To meet these demands, the government has been slashing spending on education and research, the two areas that powered Japan's postwar economic rise. And the old jibe that Japan can't resist building bridges to nowhere if the government is paying rings less true nowadays. Public works and pork-barrel spending fell to 5.1 percent of the budget this year from 13 percent in 2000. So just cutting spending is not the answer.

Of course, the tax system does need to be addressed. Japanese income earners are clearly undertaxed. Even after the proposed doubling of the consumption tax, the rate will remain nearly half the 20 percent or more that almost all European countries levy. Overall tax revenue is roughly 27 percent of GDP, putting Japan in 28th place among the 34 countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The government must not overestimate how much revenue the tax increase will generate. Moreover, it has so far shrugged off any concern that the tax increase may have a chilling effect on consumption, and thus on economic growth.

Despite two decades of malaise, Japan's economy will grow by about 2 percent this year and 1.5 percent in 2013. Given the global economic doldrums, that may not seem so bad. But if Japan is ever to address its fiscal dilemma effectively, it will need to sustain faster growth than that.

Such growth presupposes a credible strategy to pare the deficit, one that recognizes the reality of the growing cohort of pensioners. Japan will also need bold liberalizing reforms, including greater workforce participation by women, inducing corporations to invest more at home and improving competition in cosseted sectors.

If any country has the political tools to undertake a program of comprehensive reform, it is Japan. The unity with which the Japanese population met last year's disaster demonstrated once again that, when called upon, the national spirit can work miracles. And Japan's "greatest generation"—the men and women who rebuilt a war-shattered country into an economic powerhouse—should not be deemed unwilling to sacrifice for the greater good. After all, they saved their country once; they are more than capable of doing it again.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Lee Myung-Bak does Dokdo

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

I apologize to a colleague who caught the faux pas we committed in two recent articles. One misspelled the city of Man Gui in Inner Mongolia as Man Dui. The other is our claim of SoKor President Lee Myung-Bak undiplomatic visit to Tsushima when in fact, he went Dokdo, a South Korea/Japan contested island in the Sea of Japan. This shows that even Social Studies teachers get sloppy with their facts!

The Dokdo mistake, however, is unforgivable given the heated situation prevailing on the island, closer to Korea than it is to Japan, but occupied by Nippon. Korea has a legitimate claim to geography, for Japan's presence is like Great Britain's continued occupation of the Falklands. Dokdo was part of the Japanese occupation when it ruled the Korean peninsula. It is clinging to the rocks for its wealth in natural gas and untapped oil deposits. Would it not be better if our politicians just say, "there is oil in them waters"? Then, we can negotiate around the table on who is going to invest on what and develop the field. We have global corporations, why not glocal governance?

> The Scarbourough Shoals (Huangyan) in the South China Sea was in the news a few months back as the Philippines continues to push its claim on the Spratley Islands. The shoal is physically closer to the Philippines than to any real estate claimed by China. In this instance, China flexed its naval might, and encourages fishing expeditions into these far-flung rocks of the Nan Hai islands. A Pinoy-led boycott of China-made products resulted as a consequence.

Another source of conflict is the uninhabited Senkaku group (Japan), aka, Diaoyutai (China), and Pinnacle Islands (in English maps). A group of HK Chinese delight in making trips to the 5-islands 3-rocks group, and the Japanese Coast Guard keeps apprehending them and releasing culprits on humanitarian grounds.

Taiwan (Formosa of the Portuguese) was ceded to Japan by the Qing dynasty in 1895 after the first Sino-Nippon war. A fish factory operated in Diaoyu until it closed in 1940. Provisions of the Potsdam conference returned Taiwan back to China. From 1945-72, the U.S. administered Diaoyutai until Okinawa reverted back to Japan.

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The Philippine-China bone of contention is whether the conflict will be adjudicated by an International Court (Pea Eye's position egged by the U.S.), or on bilateral negotiations (China's stand). Ironically, the claims of the Philippines, that continues to host U.S. forces, inspite of the formal closure of military land bases, and Vietnam where the U.S. lost a war, are supported by U.S.' oil interests.

The sovereignty over islands is a particular issue to the Marianas. We saw this play out when the Bush Administration declared the Marine Monument on our northernmost islands. Many felt a violation of native rights to natural resources.

If the past 30 years is any indication, our indigene population, entitled to own real estate on a temporary preferential treatment, squandered that right by mistaking financial capital as a substitute to the biocapital that natural resource provides. To promote just one more real estate development just so one can increase one's financial asset does not really create wealth. It simply moves financial assets from one ledger to another.

At the moment, the planet takes 1.5 years to regenerate one year's worth of unsustainable use. It means, we are stealing, not borrowing, from the mouth of future generation, not to mention eating off the biocapital that is the basis of sustaining life. Tourism on the fast-buck-track simply moves environmental destruction to the host destination rather than the place of origin.

The development of fossil fuel as the basis of the global economy has led to incredible carbon emissions that provide all kinds of doomsday scenarios by both sane and crazy folks. It would be foolish to assume that investments to oil will dry up just so we can save the planet! Some quarters, like the flat-earth society, are yet to be convinced of the validity of scientific evidence, and widespread experience, in this case, the reality of climate change. I am reminded of the Phillip Morris fight in the '60s that tobacco was unproven to be hazardous to one's health!

President Lee's Dokdo trip, if it was to assess how Korea might protect the island from further devastation, is one thing. Sadly, that was not the case. Nor are claims to the Scarborough Shoals concerned about protecting the fragile environment. The moving of more financial assets into the pockets of a few is more the case, and in so doing, we add more carbon into our already polluted air!

The roof of the 10-storey men's dorm next to our non-Chinese quarters is having solar panels installed. Perhaps, a quixotic effort, but it addresses the carbon-laden skies of Dong Bei to be a little bluer!

I wonder what would happen to CNMI governance if it convinced Shell-Mobil investments to fund all kinds of eco-friendly measures in a small island like Saipan as a priority, and even take on the power-generating function of CUC as an experiment in sourcing green technologies for the island. Shell-Mobil CNMI will not make immediate money but the wisdom it can learn would be helpful in the long run to the whole company and the world.

We do dream once in a while.

Tensions again rising between Afghanistan, Pakistan

By HAFIZULLAH GARDESH and MINA HABIB
THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR & PEACE REPORTING

KABUL, Afghanistan—The continuing rocket attacks from Pakistan on eastern provinces of the country have cost two high-ranking officials their jobs and threaten to further destabilize the country's fragile central government.

Early last month, Abdul Rahim Wardak, the country's defense minister, was forced to step down after members of parliament called for his removal because of the ongoing shelling. Interior Minister Bismillah Khan Mohammadi, who controls the Afghan National Police, was also forced to step down.

President Hamid Karzai said he would respect parliament's views and remove the two ministers, but he asked the two to stay on until replacements could be found. Wardak refused the president's request.

Meanwhile, there is growing anger in Kabul as rockets continue to fall on the eastern Kunar province. Senior Afghan officials say that the Pakistani military, rather than Taliban militants, is responsible for the attacks, claiming that only Islamabad has access to the type of munitions being used. Pakistan has denied the allegation. U.S. defense officials and members of the international security force continue to suspect that insurgent forces may be behind the rocket attacks.

Whoever is to blame, tempers are growing short among the country's leaders.

Kabul previously threatened to go to the U.N. Security Council with its complaint against Pakistan if the bombardments, which began in May, do not stop.

Kunar provincial governor Fazlullah Wahedi said nearly 2,000 rockets had landed in recent months. In addition to killing numerous civilians, the attacks have displaced hundreds of families.

"The central government should address this issue seriously. The bombardment has made the public very anxious," he said. Army Chief of Staff Sher Mohammad Karimi recently told the upper house of parliament that he is convinced the Pakistani military is responsible for the attacks. He said he believes the assault was intended to pressure Kabul into accepting the Durand Line, a poorly defined border dividing the two countries that was imposed by the British in 1893. Kabul does not recognize the line; Islamabad would like to see it formalized.

Lawmakers asked Karimi why the United States has not done more to address the situation.

"I don't know why the Americans are ignoring this issue," he responded. "Maybe the Americans are afraid because Pakistan has nuclear weapons, or maybe they are old friends and (America) doesn't want to clash with them."

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman George Little said America was working closely with Afghanistan and Pakistan to try and limit violence along the border. "We have obviously been in constant contact with the Afghan government to work on these issues and we have put pressure on the enemy that operates along the border," Little said at a recent conference.

Kunar province is mountainous and heavily forested, and borders Pakistan's federally administered tribal areas, over which Islamabad has limited control.

Officials in Islamabad have accused insurgents of staging attacks into Pakistan from Kunar. They say the Pakistani Taliban have found refuge in parts of eastern Afghanistan from which most Afghan and American forces have withdrawn in recent years.

Pakistan's Dawn newspaper reported on July 24 that "terrorists" had launched 15 attacks from Kunar and Nuristan provinces against Pakistani border posts and villages over the last year. The newspaper claimed that 105 soldiers and civilians had been killed in the attacks.

In a country rife with conspiracy theories, many see a dark purpose behind Washington's reluctance to become directly involved in the dispute between the two countries.

They note that the United States and Pakistan in July signed a new agreement allowing the shipment of war materials from Pakistan to Afghanistan. Such shipments had been blocked since November 2011 following a U.S. airstrike inside Pakistan that left 24 Pakistani soldiers dead.

As part of the agreement, Washington agreed to release $1 billion in frozen military aid to Pakistan's military.

Wahid Mozhda, an Afghan political analyst, said that even if Washington knew Islamabad was implicated in the shelling, American officials might be reluctant to address the situation given the importance of the transit route through Pakistan.

"The ... least expensive transit route for American troops here in the region goes through Pakistan. The U.S. needs Pakistan to achieve its long-term goals in the region," Mozhda said. "I am confident that with the technology at their disposal, the Americans know where the rockets coming into Afghanistan are being fired from, but they don't want to upset Pakistan."

Hafizullah Gardesh and Mina Habib are reporters in Afghanistan who write for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88º ▼77º	▲88 º ▼77º	▲87º ▼76º	▲87º ▼77º	▲88º ▼77º

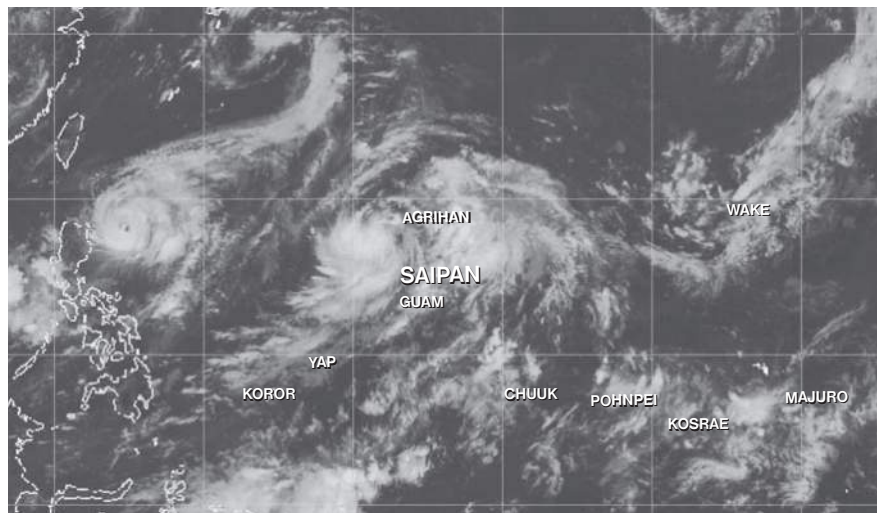
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲62	▼51
Beijing	Sunny	▲85	▼61
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲88	▼76
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼56
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲83	▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼79
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼66
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲90	▼78
Paris	Sunny	▲78	▼57
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Rome	Sunny	▲96	▼73
Salem	Sunny	▲78	▼56
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼55
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲80	▼71
Tokyo	Sunny	▲91	▼78
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼70

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Newly formed tropical depression 16W is centered 335 miles west-northwest of Saipan near 18N141E. Tropical depression 16W is moving north-northwestward at 8 mph with maximum sustained winds of 35 Mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found primarily south of the circulation center and northwest of the Marianas between 18N and 14N from 137E to 144E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms extend farther southwest of 16W located north of Yap and Koror within 100 miles of a line from 14N140E to 9N134E. For more detailed information on tropical depression 16W, see bulletins issued by the national weather service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM and the joint typhoon warning center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. A monsoon trough extends eastward from 18N130E through newly formed tropical depression 16W to end near joint typhoon warning center invest area 98W centered around 19N150E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring mainly northeast of the Marianas between 22N and 15N from 145E to 154E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:07 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:54 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:12 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
11:12 PM	Today	Low Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Wednesday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:34 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:01 AM	9:05 PM
Wednesday	9:58 AM	9:53 PM
Thursday	10:57 AM	10:44 PM
Friday	11:58 AM	11:38 PM
Saturday	12:58 PM	-

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
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  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Social Security fixable; changes politically tough

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite Social Security's long-term problems, the massive retirement and disability program could be preserved for generations to come with modest but politically difficult changes to benefits or taxes, or a combination of both.

Some options could affect people quickly, such as increasing payroll taxes or reducing annual cost-of-living adjustments for those who already get benefits. Others options, such as gradually raising the retirement age, wouldn't be felt for years but would affect millions of younger workers.

All of the options carry political risks because they have the potential to affect nearly every U.S. family while raising the ire of powerful interest groups. But the sooner changes are made, the more subtle they can be because they can be phased in slowly. Each year lawmakers wait, Social Security's financial problems loom larger and the need for bigger changes becomes greater, according to an analysis by The Associated Press.

"Certainly, in the current environment, it would be very difficult to get changes made," Social Security's commissioner, Michael J. Astrue, said in an interview. "It doesn't mean that we shouldn't try. And sometimes when you try hard things, surprising things happen."

Social Security is ensnared in the same debate over taxes and spending that has gripped Washington for years. Liberal advocates and some Democrats say benefit cuts should be off the table. Conservative activists and some Republicans say tax increases are out of the question.

Others, including a deficit commission created by President Barack Obama in 2010, have called for a combination of tax increases and cuts to future benefits, including raising the retirement age again.

Janice Durflinger of Lincoln, Neb., is still working at age 76, running computer software programs for a bank. Still, she worries that a higher retirement age would be tough on people with more physically demanding jobs.

"No matter how much you exercise, age takes its toll," Durflinger said.

But at 20, Jared Macher of Manalapan, N.J., worries that Social Security won't be around for his generation without major changes.

"My generation sees Social Security as a tax, not an investment," Macher said.

Social Security's finances are being hit by a wave of demographics as millions of baby boomers reach retirement, leaving relatively fewer workers behind to pay into the system. About 56 million people get benefits today; that is projected to grow to 91 million in 2035.

For nearly three decades Social Security produced big surpluses, collecting more in taxes from workers than it paid in benefits to retirees, disabled workers, spouses and children.

But Social Security trustees project that the surplus, now valued at $2.7 trillion, will be gone in 2033. At that point, Social Security would only collect enough tax revenue each year to pay about 75 percent of benefits, unless Congress acts.

After the surplus is spent, the gap between scheduled benefits and projected tax revenue is big.

Social Security uses a 75-year window to forecast its finances, so the projections cover the life expectancy of every worker paying into the system. Once Social Security's surplus is gone, the program is scheduled to pay out $134 trillion more in benefits than it will collect in taxes over the next 75 years, according to data from the agency. Adjusted for inflation, that's $30.5 trillion in 2012 dollars.

The options for closing the gap fall into two broad categories: cutting benefits or raising taxes. There are, however, many options within each category.

The AP used data from the Social Security Administration to calculate how much of the shortfall would be eliminated by various options. To illustrate how Social Security's long-term finances have become worse in the past two years, the AP also calculated the share of the shortfall that would have been eliminated, if the options had been adopted in 2010.

■ ■ ■

Taxes

Social Security is financed by a 12.4 percent tax on wages. Workers pay half and their employers pay the other half. The tax is applied to the first $110,100 of a worker's wages, a level that increases each year with inflation. For 2011 and 2012, the tax rate for employees was reduced to 4.2 percent, but is scheduled to return to 6.2 percent in January.

Options:

■ Apply the Social Security tax to all wages, including those above $110,100. Workers making $200,000 in wages would get a tax increase of $5,574, an amount their employers would have to match. Their future benefits would increase, too. This option would eliminate 72 percent of the shortfall. Two years ago, it would have wiped out 99 percent.

■ Increase the payroll tax by 0.1 percentage point a year, until it reaches 14.4 percent in 20 years. At that point, workers making $50,000 a year would get a tax increase of $500 and employers would have to match it. This option would eliminate 53 percent of the shortfall. Two years ago, it would have wiped out 73 percent.

■ ■ ■

Retirement age

Workers qualify for full retirement benefits at age 66, a threshold that gradually rises to 67 for people born in 1960 or later. Workers are eligible for early retirement at 62, though monthly benefits are reduced by about 25 percent. The reductions shrink the longer you wait to apply.

Options:

■ Gradually raise the full retirement age to 68 in 2033. This option would eliminate 15 percent of the shortfall. Two years ago, it would have eliminated a little more than 20 percent.

■ Gradually raise the full retirement age to 69 in 2039 and 70 in 2063. This option would eliminate 37 percent of the shortfall. Two years ago, it would have eliminated about half.

■ ■ ■

Cost-of-living adjustments

Each year, if consumer prices increase, Social Security benefits go up as well. By law, the increases are pegged to an inflation index. This year, benefits went up by 3.6 percent, the first increase since 2009.

Option: Adopt a new inflation index called the Chained CPI, which assumes that people change their buying habits when prices increase to reduce the impact on their pocketbooks. The new index would reduce the annual COLA by 0.3 percentage point, on average. This option would eliminate 19 percent of the shortfall. Two years ago, it would have eliminated 26 percent.

■ ■ ■

Benefits

Initial Social Security benefits are determined by lifetime wages, meaning the more you make, the higher your benefit, to a point. Initial benefits are typically calculated using up to 35 years of wages. Earnings from earlier years, when workers were young, are adjusted to reflect the change in general wage levels that occurred during their years of employment.

Tinkering with the benefit formula can save big money, but cuts to initial benefits mean lower monthly payments for the rest of a retiree's life. The average monthly benefit for a new retiree is $1,264.

Option: Change the calculation for initial benefits, but only for people with lifetime wages above the national average, which is about $42,000 a year. Workers with higher incomes would still get a bigger monthly benefit than lower paid workers but not as big as under current law. It's a cut they would feel throughout their entire retirement. This option would eliminate 34 percent of the shortfall. Two years ago, it would have eliminated almost half.

Nation

Like NASA rover, family switches over to Mars time

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, Calif. (AP)—For one family, an exotic summer getaway means living on Mars.

Martian time, that is.

Since the landing of NASA's newest Mars rover, flight director David Oh's family has taken the unusual step of tagging along as he leaves Earth time behind and syncs his body clock with the red planet.

Every mission to Mars, a small army of scientists and engineers reports to duty on "Mars time" for the first three months. But it's almost unheard of for an entire family to flip their orderly lives upside down, shifting to what amounts to a time zone change a day.

Intrigued about abiding by extraterrestrial time, Oh's wife, Bryn, could not pass up the chance to take their kids - 13-year-old Braden, 10-year-old Ashlyn and 8-year-old Devyn—on a Martian adventure from their home near the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory where the Curiosity rover was built.

"We all feel a little sleepy, a little jet-lagged all day long, but everyone is doing great," Bryn Oh said, two weeks into the experiment.

Days on Mars last a tad longer. Earth rotates on its axis once every 24 hours—the definition of a day. Neighbor Mars spins more lazily. Days there—known as sols—last 39 minutes and 35 seconds longer than on Earth. The difference may not seem like much each day, but it adds up.

To stay in lockstep, nearly 800 people on the $2.5 billion project have surrendered to the Martian cycle of light and dark. In the simplest sense, each day slides forward 40 minutes. That results in wacky work, sleep and eating schedules. Many say it feels like perpetual jet lag.

AP

In this photo taken Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2012, Devyn Oh 8, squints as his eyes face the daylight, as his mother Bryn takes him to a sports class in La Canada Flintridge, Calif.

The Oh family broke in slowly. A sign on their front door warns: "On Mars Time: Flight Director Asleep. Come Back Later."

Days before Curiosity's Aug. 5 touchdown, the children stayed up until 11:30 p.m. and slept in until 10 a.m. In the beginning, it wasn't much different from a typical day on summer vacation. As the days wore on, they stayed up later and later, waking up in the afternoon and evening.

One day last week, the family ate a 3 p.m. breakfast, 8 p.m. lunch, 2:30 a.m. dinner and 5 a.m. dessert before heading off to bed.

To sleep when the sun is out, their bedroom windows are covered with aluminum foil or cloth to keep out any sliver of light. In the hallway, a handmade calendar keeps track of the days and schedules are written on an oversized mirror. A digital clock in the master bedroom is set to Mars time.

Dems slam Ryan over Social Security privatization

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats are eagerly renewing their fight against privatizing Social Security now that Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney has picked Paul Ryan as his running mate. It was a fight that didn't go well for the GOP when President George W. Bush pushed the idea in 2005.

In his 2010 "Road Map for America's Future," the Wisconsin congressman proposed a plan to allow younger workers to divert more than one-third of their Social Security taxes into personal accounts that they would own and could will to their heirs.

Ryan wrote that the accounts would provide workers an opportunity "to build a significant nest egg for retirement that far exceeds what the current program can provide." Workers 55 and older would stay in the current system.

Romney hasn't embraced the proposal and Ryan, chairman of the House Budget Committee, didn't include it in either of the federal budgets passed by House Republicans the past two years. But now that Ryan is running for vice president, Democrats hope to capitalize on the issue.

Bush's proposal for private accounts received a chilly reception from members in both parties in Congress, though Ryan embraced it. Democrats used the issue against GOP congressional candidates in the 2006 election, when they regained control of the House and Senate.

"The very last thing we ought to be doing is putting at risk the retirement security of millions of America's seniors," said Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida, who heads the Democratic National Committee.

Lawyers across US urged to give more free services

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Jennifer Garcia stood alone before a judge with a stack of legal papers in her hands, answering questions about her personal life.

She has acted as her own lawyer in state Family Court in a paternity, child support and visitation case on and off for three years, but representing herself in a courtroom full of strangers still makes her nervous.

"Sometimes I get this gut feeling because you never know what the judge is going to say," said the 23-year-old single mother of two from Hartford.

Garcia is part of a crush of people who are representing themselves in the nation's civil courts because they can't afford lawyers, who typically charge $200 to $500 an hour. The boom has overwhelmed courts and sparked new efforts to get attorneys to meet what the American Bar Association says is its professional responsibility to offer free legal services to people in need.

The increase in self-represented parties stems from a recession that has left fewer people able to afford lawyers and created new waves of foreclosure, debt collection and bankruptcy cases, judges and lawyers say. Judges say self-represented people are slowing down court dockets because they typically don't know what legal points to argue or what motions to file.

Asia

Gu Kailai gets suspended death sentence for murder

HEFEI, China (AP)—The wife of a disgraced Chinese politician was given a suspended death sentence Monday after confessing to killing a British businessman by poisoning him with cyanide in a case that rocked the country's top political leadership.

A suspended sentence is usually commuted to life in prison after two years.

Sentenced along with Gu Kailai was a family aide who was given nine years' imprisonment for his involvement in the murder of Neil Heywood, a former family associate, said He Zhengsheng, a lawyer for the Heywood family who attended the sentencing in this eastern China city.

AP

In this Aug. 9, 2012 file video image taken from CCTV, Gu Kailai, center, the wife of disgraced politician Bo Xilai, stands during her trial in the Hefei Intermediate People's Court in Hefei in eastern China's Anhui province.

The sentencing closes one chapter of China's biggest political crisis in two decades, but also leaves open questions over the fate of Gu's husband, Bo Xilai, who was dismissed in March as the powerful Communist Party boss of the major city of Chongqing.

Bo's dismissal and his wife's murder trial come at a sensitive time in China, with party leaders handing over power soon to a younger generation. At one time Bo was considered a candidate for a top position.

The lawyer He said he had to discuss the verdict with the Heywood family and did not know if they would lodge an appeal.

"We respect the court's ruling today. Thank you all for your concern," He said.

State media say Gu confessed to intentional homicide at a one-day trial held here Aug. 9 under heavy guard. The media reports—the court has been closed to international media—say she and Heywood had a dispute over money and Heywood allegedly threatened her son.

US drones kill 10 militants in northwest Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—American drones fired a flurry of missiles in a Pakistani tribal area bordering Afghanistan Sunday, killing a total of 10 suspected militants, Pakistani officials said.

In the first strike, missiles fired from unmanned American spy planes hit two vehicles near the Afghan border, killing at least seven militants, Pakistani intelligence officials said.

The strike came in the Mana area of North Waziristan, the officials added.

The officials say the area is dominated by Hafiz Gul Bahadur, a commander whose forces often strike U.S. troops in Afghanistan, but they did not know whether his men were the targets of Sundays' strike. A U.S. drone strike Saturday also in North Waziristan killed five Gul Bahadur allies.

About 10 hours later on Sunday, two missiles destroyed a home also in the Mana area, killing three militants, the officials said.

All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to the media.

The drone program is hotly contested in Pakistan.

Most Pakistanis feel the strikes violate the country's sovereignty and kill innocent civilians. The U.S. maintains they are directed against militants and necessary to combat groups like al-Qaida.

North Waziristan is one of the last tribal areas in northwestern Pakistan, where the military has yet to launch an operation to root out militants. The area has become a safe haven for fighters who use it as a base from which to attack American and NATO troops in Afghanistan.

The U.S. has urged Pakistan repeatedly to conduct a military operation there, and earlier this week U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta told The Associated Press that Pakistan was preparing an operation targeting the Pakistani Taliban in North Waziristan.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Activists up ante in China, Japan isle dispute

TOKYO (AP)—An unauthorized landing by Japanese activists on an island at the center of a dispute with China is sparking nationalist outrage and fueling calls on both sides for aggressive government action that some fear could lead to an escalation of tensions. Japanese authorities on Monday questioned the 10 Japanese, including five local assembly members, who swam ashore on the disputed island the day before. Criminal charges were not expected. Japan's chief Cabinet spokesman Osamu Fujimura called the landing "regrettable" because it was done without government approval.

SKorea-US war drills begin amid North's protest

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea and the United States have begun annual military drills that North Korea calls a precursor to war. The U.S. says the two-week Ulchi Freedom Guardian drills started Monday with more than 80,000 troops from the U.S., South Korea and the seven countries that fought with them in the 1950-53 Korean War. Pyongyang has repeatedly threatened to attack Seoul over perceived insults and denounces the exercises as preparation for a pre-emptive attack.

India says Pakistan websites caused migrant panic

NEW DELHI (AP)—The Indian home secretary has accused websites in Pakistan of spreading false rumors that caused thousands of people from India's remote northeast to panic and flee from southern and western India. They feared they would be attacked in retaliation for ethnic violence in their home state. Home Secretary R.K. Singh told reporters late Saturday that investigators had found that most of the websites used images of people killed in cyclones and earthquakes and passed them off as Muslims killed in violence earlier this year to spread fear of revenge attacks. He said most of the images were uploaded from Pakistan. The sites have now been blocked. Singh said India would discuss the matter with officials in Pakistan but gave no other details about the websites. The two countries routinely blame each other for fomenting domestic strife.

World

Assange urges US to end Wikileaks 'witch hunt'

LONDON (AP)—Wikileaks founder Julian Assange portrayed himself Sunday as a victim of an American "witch hunt" over his secret-spilling website in a defiant address from the balcony of an embassy where he has holed up to avoid extradition to face sex assault allegations.

Assange

Surrounded by British police who want to detain him, Assange made no mention of the sex assault case in Sweden or how long he would remain in Ecuador's embassy in London, where he took refuge two months ago. Instead he shifted focus to the U.S., accusing the government of targeting him for revealing a trove of American diplomatic and military secrets.

"I ask President Obama to do the right thing. The United States must renounce its witch hunt against WikiLeaks," Assange said, wearing a formal blue shirt and red tie in front of the Ecuadorean flag.

"The United States must vow that it will not seek to prosecute our staff or our supporters," he said, referring specifically to Pfc. Bradley Manning, who awaits trial in Virginia in the scandal.

The U.S. risks "dragging us all into a dark, repressive world in which journalists live under fear of prosecution," Assange said

Assange and his supporters claim the Swedish case is the first move of a Washington-orchestrated plot to make him stand trial in the U.S., which Swedish authorities dispute.

The White House declined comment Sunday, but on Saturday said Assange's fate is an issue for Sweden, Britain and Ecuador to resolve.

Assange, a 41-year-old Australian citizen, shot to international prominence in 2010 when his WikiLeaks website began publishing its huge cache of American secrets, including 250,000 U.S. Embassy cables that highlighted sometimes embarrassing backroom dealings.

As he toured the globe to highlight the disclosures, two women accused him of sex offenses during a trip to Sweden. Assange has said the sex with the women was consensual and denied wrongdoing, but has fought off efforts to return him to Sweden for questioning for two years.

Ecuador's President Rafael Correa granted Assange asylum Thursday, and he remains out of reach of British authorities while he is inside the country's embassy. Britain insists that if he steps outside, he will be detained and sent to Sweden.

Assange praised Ecuador Sunday as "a courageous Latin American nation took a stand for justice," in offering him sanctuary. He suggested he had won the support of a host of Latin American nations—including Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Argentina. Of those five, however, only Argentina has endorsed Ecuador's decision to grant asylum.

Assange urged the U.S. to release Manning, the U.S. soldier charged with aiding the enemy by passing the secret files to Wikileaks. A Virginia grand jury is studying evidence that might link Assange to Manning.

Calling Manning "one of the world's foremost political prisoners," Assange said: "If Bradley Manning really did as he is accused, he is a hero, an example to us all."

Aleppo reflects on losses during holiday lull

ALEPPO, Syria (AP)—A brief lull in fighting for a Muslim holiday Sunday allowed residents of Aleppo to take stock of their losses after three weeks of intense battles left many in Syria's largest city strapped for cash, separated from loved ones and scared of more violence ahead.

In the capital Damascus, President Bashar Assad prayed at a mosque in his first appearance in public since a bomb attack killed four of his top security advisers on July 18.

Thousands across the country marched against Assad in mosques and cemeteries after special dawn prayers marking the start of the three-day Eid al-Fitr holiday, which caps the holy month of Ramadan. The holiday—usually a joyful time to remember the dead, dress up in new clothes and visit family—followed a particularly bloody Ramadan when fighting erupted in Syria's two largest cities, bringing large civilian populations under fire and causing a spike in the death toll.

"There is no holiday," said Mohammed Radwan, 34, standing near an apartment building in Aleppo's Tariq al-Bab neighborhood, which was hit by an airstrike the day before. "The electricity comes and goes, the jets fire on us and no one has any work. All we'll do today is clean up the rocks and rubble."

Nearby, a group of men coated in gray cement dust searched the wreckage of the strike for the bodies of two young girls, aged 2 and 14.

The fighting in Aleppo has marked the first time that Assad has relied heavily on air power to bomb and strafe rebel forces who have grown adept at challenging ground troops. The poorly armed opposition fighters are largely helpless against near-daily airstrikes by attack helicopters and fighter jets, and the attacks often kill or terrify civilians. As many as 200,000 have fled Aleppo, either to nearby villages or to refugee camps in Turkey.

WORLD BRIEFS

Lonmin to SAfrica strikers: Work Monday or fired

MARIKANA, South Africa (AP)—Miners must return to work Monday or face being fired from the platinum mine where rivalry between unions exploded into violence that led to the deaths of 44 people in a week, Lonmin PLC said Sunday. Thirty-four strikers were gunned down by police in one of the worst displays of state violence since apartheid ended in 1994. President Jacob Zuma declared a week of national mourning starting Monday to commemorate the lives of all South Africans who have died violently, especially the 44 at Marikana mine. "The nation is in shock and pain," Zuma said in a statement. "We must this week reflect on the sanctity of human life ... We must avoid finger-pointing and recrimination. We must unite against violence from whatever quarter."

Sudanese helicopter crash kills 32

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—A Sudanese helicopter carrying a government delegation crashed in a mountainous southern region on Sunday, killing all 32 people on board including a Cabinet minister, a former presidential adviser, two generals and a TV crew. The delegation was travelling aboard a chartered helicopter to the volatile South Kordofan state to attend prayers on the first day of the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. The helicopter went down "due to harsh weather conditions" near Talodi, a small town about 650 kilometers (406 miles) southwest of the capital, Khartoum, state-run news agency SUNA said.

Focus

WASHINGTON (AP)—The recession that ended three years ago this summer has been followed by the feeblest economic recovery since the Great Depression.

US economic recovery is weakest since World War II

Since World War II, 10 U.S. recessions have been followed by a recovery that lasted at least three years. An Associated Press analysis shows that by just about any measure, the one that began in June 2009 is the weakest.

The ugliness goes well beyond unemployment, which at 8.3 percent is the highest this long after a recession ended.

Economic growth has never been weaker in a postwar recovery. Consumer spending has never been so slack. Only once has job growth been slower.

More than in any other post-World War II recovery, people who have jobs are hurting: Their paychecks have fallen behind inflation.

Many economists say the agonizing recovery from the Great Recession, which began in December 2007 and ended in June 2009, is the predictable consequence of a housing bust and a grave financial crisis.

Credit, the fuel that powers economies, evaporated after Lehman Brothers collapsed in September 2008. And a 30 percent drop in housing prices erased trillions in home equity and brought construction to a near-standstill.

So any recovery was destined to be a slog.

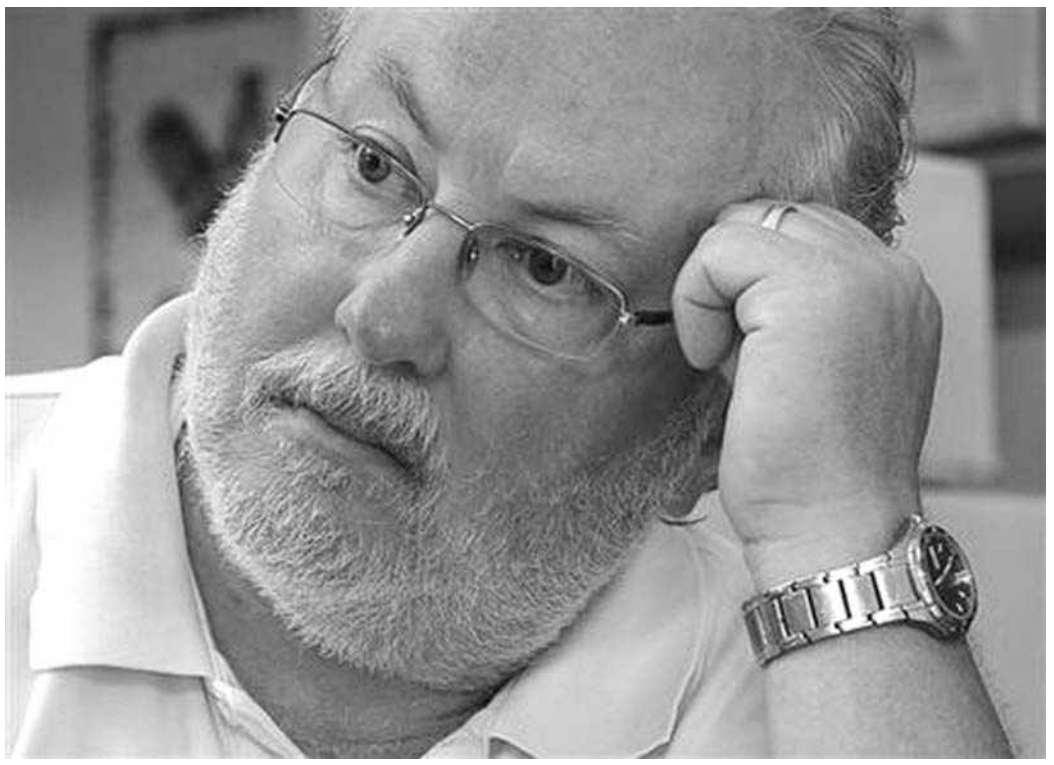
"A housing collapse is very different from a stock market bubble and crash," says Nobel Prize-winning economist Peter Diamond of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "It affects so many people. It only corrects very slowly." The U.S. economy has other problems, too. Europe's troubles have undermined consumer and business confidence on both sides of the Atlantic. And the deeply divided U.S. political system has delivered growth-chilling uncertainty.

The AP compared nine economic recoveries since the end of World War II that lasted at least three years. A 10th recovery that ran from 1945 to 1948 was not included because the statistics from that period aren't comprehensive, although the available data show that hiring was robust. There were two short-lived recoveries—24 months and 12 months—after the recessions of 1957-58 and 1980.

Here is a closer look at how the comeback from the Great Recession stacks up with the others:

FEEBLE GROWTH

America's gross domestic product—the broadest measure of economic output—grew 6.8 percent from the April-June quarter of 2009 through the same quarter this year, the slowest in the first three years of a postwar recovery. GDP grew an average of 15.5 percent in the first three years of the eight other comebacks analyzed.



AP

Greg Mann, an unemployed research analyst and real estate appraiser, is pictured at his home Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2012, in Braselton, Ga.

The engines that usually drive recoveries aren't firing this time.

Investment in housing, which grew an average of nearly 34 percent this far into previous postwar recoveries, is up just 8 percent since the April-June quarter of 2009.

That's because the overbuilding of the mid-2000s left a glut of houses. Prices fell and remain depressed. The housing market has yet to return to anything close to full health even as mortgage rates have plunged to record lows.

Government spending and investment at the federal, state and local levels was 4.5 percent lower in the second quarter than three years earlier.

Three years into previous postwar recoveries, government spending had risen an average 12.5 percent. In the first three years after the 1981-82 recession, during President Ronald Reagan's first term, the economy got a jolt from a 15 percent increase in government spending and investment.

This time, state and local governments have been slashing spending—and jobs. And since passing President Barack Obama's $862 billion stimulus package in 2009, a divided Congress has been reluctant to try to help the economy with federal spending programs. Trying to contain the $11.1 trillion federal debt has been a higher priority.

Since June 2009, governments at all levels have slashed 642,000 jobs, the only time government employment has fallen in the three years after a recession. This long after the 1973-74 recession, by contrast, governments had added more than 1 million jobs.

EXHAUSTED CONSUMERS

Consumer spending has grown just 6.5 percent since the recession ended, feeblest in a postwar recovery. In the first three years of previous recoveries, spending rose an average of nearly 14 percent.

It's no mystery why consumers are being frugal. Many have lost access to credit, which fueled their spending in the 2000s. Home equity has evaporated and credit cards have been canceled. Falling home prices have slashed home equity 49 percent, from $13.2 trillion in 2005 to $6.7 trillion early this year.

Others are spending less because they're paying down debt or saving more. Household debt peaked at 126 percent of after-tax income in mid-2007 and has fallen to 107 percent, according to Haver Analytics. The savings rate has risen from 1.1 percent of after-tax income in 2005 to 4.4 percent in June. Consumers have cut credit card debt by 14 percent—to $865 billion—since it peaked at over $1 trillion in December 2007.

"We were in a period in which we borrowed too much," says Carl Weinberg, chief economist at High Frequency Economics. "We are now deleveraging. That's a process that slows us down."

THE JOBS HOLE

The economy shed a staggering 8.8 million jobs during and shortly after the recession. Since employment hit bottom, the economy has created just over 4 million jobs. So the new hiring has replaced 46 percent of the lost jobs, by far the worst performance since World War II. In the previous eight recoveries, the economy had regained more than 350 percent of the jobs lost, on average.

During the 1981-82 recession, the U.S. lost 2.8 million jobs. In the three years and one month after that recession ended, the economy added 9.8 million—replacing the 2.8 million and adding 7 million more.

Never before have so many Americans been unemployed for so long three years into a recovery. Nearly 5.2 million have been out of work for six months or more. The long-term unemployed account for 41 percent of the jobless; the highest mark in the other recoveries was 22 percent.

Gregory Mann, 58, lost his job as a real estate appraiser three years ago. "Basically, I am looking for anything," he says. He has applied to McDonald's, Target and Nordstrom's.

"Nothing, not even a rejection letter," he says.

His wife, a registered nurse, has lost two jobs in the interim—and just received an offer to work reviewing medical records near Atlanta.

"We are broke and nearly homeless," he says. "If this job for my wife hadn't come through, we would be out on the street come Sept. 1 or would have had to move in with relatives."

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has called long-term unemployment a "national crisis." The longer people remain unemployed, the harder it is to find work, Bernanke has said. Skills erode, and people lose contact with former colleagues who could help with the job search.

SHRINKING PAYCHECKS

Usually, workers' pay rises as the economy picks up momentum after a recession. Not this time. Employers don't have to be generous in a weak job market because most workers don't have anywhere to go.

As a result, pay raises haven't kept up with even modest levels of inflation. Earnings for production and nonsupervisory workers—a category that covers about 80 percent of the private, nonfarm workforce—have risen just over 6.2 percent since June 2009. Consumer prices have risen nearly 7.2 percent. Adjusted for inflation, wages have fallen 0.8 percent. In the previous five recoveries -the records go back only to 1964—real wages had gone up an average 1.5 percent at this point.

Falling wages haven't hurt everyone. Lower labor costs helped push corporate profits to a record 10.6 percent of U.S. GDP in the first three months of 2012, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. And those surging profits helped lift the Dow Jones industrials 54 percent from the end of June 2009 to the end of last month. Only after the recessions of 1948-49 and 1953-54 did stocks rise more.

Stock investments may be coming back, but savings are still getting squeezed by the rock-bottom interest rates the Fed has engineered to boost the economy. The money Americans earn from interest payments fell from nearly $1.4 trillion in 2008 to barely $1 trillion last year—a drop of more than $370 billion, or 27 percent. That amounts to shrinking income for many retirees.

Washington isn't doing much to help the economy. An impasse between Obama and congressional Republicans brought the U.S. to the brink of default on the federal debt last year -a confrontation that rattled financial markets and sapped consumer and business confidence.

Given the political divide, businesses and consumers don't know what's going to happen to taxes, government spending or regulation. Sharp tax increases and spending cuts are scheduled to kick in at year's end unless Congress and the White House reach a budget deal.

In the meantime, it's difficult for consumers to summon the confidence to spend and businesses the confidence to hire and expand. Never in the postwar period has there been so much uncertainty about what policymakers will do, says Steven Davis, an economist at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business: "No one is sure what will actually happen."

As weak as this recovery is, it's nothing like what the U.S. went through in the 1930s. The period known as the Great Depression actually included two severe recessions separated by a recovery that lasted from March 1933 until May 1937.

It's tough to compare the current recovery with the 1933-37 version. Economic figures comparable to today's go back only to the late 1940s. But calculations by economist Robert Coen, professor emeritus at Northwestern University, suggest that things were far bleaker during the recovery three-quarters of a century ago: Coen found that unemployment remained well above 10 percent—and usually above 15 percent—throughout the 1930s.

Only the approach and outbreak of World War II—the ultimate government stimulus program—restored the economy and the job market to full health.

Overdrive

Two visions of luxury within BMW 6 Series

The 2013 BMW 640i Gran Coupe, a four-door coupe, starts at a significantly higher price than the 5 Series, yet boasts similar driving manners.
MCT

NUTS & BOLTS

Engine: Twin turbocharged 3.0-liter six-cylinder
Wheelbase: 116.9 inches
Length: 197.2 inches
Weight: 4,190 pounds
Cargo space: 13 cubic feet
EPA rating (city/highway): 20/30 mpg
Fuel type: Premium
Base price, base model: $76,000 (excluding destination charge)
As tested: Not available

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

SANTA BARBARA, Calif.—The BMW 6 Series coupe is the essence of a grand touring car—a ride that's sporting, luxurious and not completely practical.

Now that BMW offers the 6 Series in coupe and convertible forms, it's hard to imagine that BMW could improve on an already stellar automobile. But they have, with two new 6 Series models that should lure buyers into indulging in the joy of six: the 640i Gran Coupe and the M6 Convertible.

640I GRAN COUPE : If you don't think that German automakers are capable of designing and building cars that value form over function, look no further than the so-called "four-door coupe" class, an automotive form established by the 2006 Mercedes-Benz CLS and later copied by the Aston Martin Rapide, Audi A7 and Volkswagen CC.

This class usually sports low, comehither lines that recall a coupe, while four doors give the illusion of practicality. I say "illusion" because while you can actually use the rear seats, getting to them calls for the skill of an Olympic gymnast.

The newest entrant arrived in BMW showrooms in June: the 2013 BMW 640i Gran Coupe.

Looking somewhat like a squashed rendition of a 7 Series sedan, the BMW eschews the curvaceous lines of competitors, opting instead for a tastefully conservative style that should age gracefully.

The car is shorter than a 7 Series, but longer than the 5 Series sedan and 6 Series coupe. Still, it shares its wheelbase with the 5 Series, which means a roomy front seat and a modestly roomy rear seat.

Yes, modest. Like the rest of the four-door coupe class, you can put people in the back of the 640i Gran Coupe, but some compromise will be needed from front-seat passengers; leg room is in short supply if the front seats are pushed all of the way back. And getting to those seats requires agility to fit through the small door openings.

In this regard, however, the BMW is no different from the rest of the class. But if the rear bench in your car is used for briefcases rather than buttocks, you'll find it's a small price to pay for motoring in such Gran style.

There are three variants of the Gran Coupe, of which only one, the rear-drive 640i, is currently available. With a 315-horsepower 3.0-liter six-cylinder engine and an eight-speed automatic transmission, the 640i can reach 60 mph in 5.4 seconds.

Next is the rear-drive 650i, due in the fall, with a 445-hp twin turbocharged 4.4-liter V8 engine that can reach 60 mph in 4.5 seconds. The 650i also can be fitted with BMW's all-wheel-drive system. Top speed for both models is limited to 155 mph.

BMW offered a 640i for an afternoon of driving around the hills of Santa Barbara.

Immediately, the BMW showed off its luxury credentials. There's a 10.2 inch-high definition display trimmed in a galvanized chrome surround nestled in an instrument panel finished, along with the doors and center console, in sinfully supple Nappa leather with contrasting stitching.

An optional Luxury Seating Package adds ventilated, multi-contour seats; sunshades on the windows and a four-zone climate control system.

Starting the 640i brought the Bang & Olufsen sound system to life. Its acoustic lens rises out of the dashboard, filling the cabin with sound. Frivolous touch? Perhaps, but it reminds you of why this car costs more than lesser BMWs.

And while I admire the job done by acoustic engineers to perfectly tune the audio system's sound, it was the noise coming from under the hood that mattered most.

The twin turbocharged 3.0-liter six-cylinder engine provided ample power for tackling hills with gusto. The eight-speed transmission is seamless, always seemingly in the proper gear. The steering is nicely weighted. The suspension does a fine job of dispatching all but the worst bumps, which pound through.

I could go on, but if you've driven any larger BMW of late, be it the 5, 6 or 7 Series, you'll immediately feel at home in this car; it drives with a similar sporting flair topped with a patina of posh comfort.

The car features a range of driving modes, including comfort plus, comfort, sport, sport plus and eco, which are actuated through a rocker switch on the center console. These settings affect the feel of the car by changing throttle response, power steering boost, shock absorbers, automatic transmission shift characteristics and—if equipped—roll stabilization.

Active Roll Stabilization is optional and reduces body roll in corners and ensures that cornering remains flat.

The driving position is perfect; the ambience, opulent. It's easy to pass the hours behind the wheel of this lovely six machine.

And of course, there's a suite of electronics to keep you safe, entertain you and guide you to your destination. There's even a rearview camera.

With the 640i starting at $76,895, and the 650i expected to start at $87,395, it's easy to see that, with options, these cars can easily approach six figures.

Given that the 640i starts at a significantly higher price than the 5 Series, yet boasts similar driving manners, you'll have to decide if its incredibly elegant looks are worth the extra scratch.

I say yes. But then again, I'm always captivated by a pretty face.

UNDER THE HOOD

Mysterious squeak difficult to trace

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I have a 1995 Saturn SL-2 and tow it behind my motor home. When my air scoop in front started to drag on my driveway, I had my front shocks and coil springs replaced. After I took it out of the shop, there was a loud squeak when I would turn the wheel right or left. I informed the service manager, who is also the owner, and he said that it would go away after I drove it a while.

A few days later, I took it to another shop, and they said that it had a bad right shock. The manager of the original shop said that he could not fix it, so if the other shop could, to go ahead and he would reimburse me the cost. I did, but replacing the shock did not eliminate the squeak. The second shop replaced the tie rod ends, and it still did not fix the squeak.

I am afraid that if they have to replace more parts that it will cost me more money. Do you have any ideas as to how to stop the squeak?

—Walter D. Terry

ANSWER: This is an odd situation for two reasons: It seems really clear the squeak wasn't there until the struts and springs were renewed, and why did the first shop take such a hands-off approach to resolving it?

Your Saturn, like many small and midsize cars, employs MacPherson struts in the front suspension. Struts combine the shock absorber with the upper pivoting part of the suspension, creating a compact and lightweight suspension system that's well suited for transversely mounted powertrains. A strut consists of the shock absorber tube, the coil spring and a strut mount at the top. The strut mount serves as a bearing, allowing the strut to rotate as the wheels are turned, and as a cushion, to dampen harshness. The strut mount attaches to the upper inner fender of the vehicle body, and the lower end of the strut bolts to the steering knuckle.

It sounds like either one of the replacement coil springs isn't seating properly in its nest at the bottom of the strut or the upper spring seat, a rubber disc, is out of position. Another possibility is the bearing within the upper strut mount lacks lubrication or is failing. A squeak such as this can be challenging to pin down, as the front wheels likely need to be on the ground for the noise to occur, loading the strut components, which are difficult to access. Also, the squeak seems to radiate from all directions.

The best bet for tracking down the exact source is to very carefully touch with fingers, or use a stethoscope to listen at various component locations for a tearing/grating vibration as a helper turns the steering wheel back and forth. The vibration will be much more localized than the squeaking sound. Another method is to duplicate the squeak, then shoot a narrow stream of WD-40 at selected locations, starting at the bottom and listening for a temporary change in the offending sound.

I'm baffled why the first shop would take the approach they did. Who better to fix this than the person familiar with the work originally performed? It's possible this isn't a workmanship error or defective part, but simply bad luck that the replacement spring's lower coil diameter isn't a perfect fit for the strut nest.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

'Top Gun' director dies after jumping off bridge

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tony Scott, director of such Hollywood hits as "Top Gun," "Days of Thunder" and "Beverly Hills Cop II," died Sunday after jumping from a Los Angeles County bridge, authorities said.

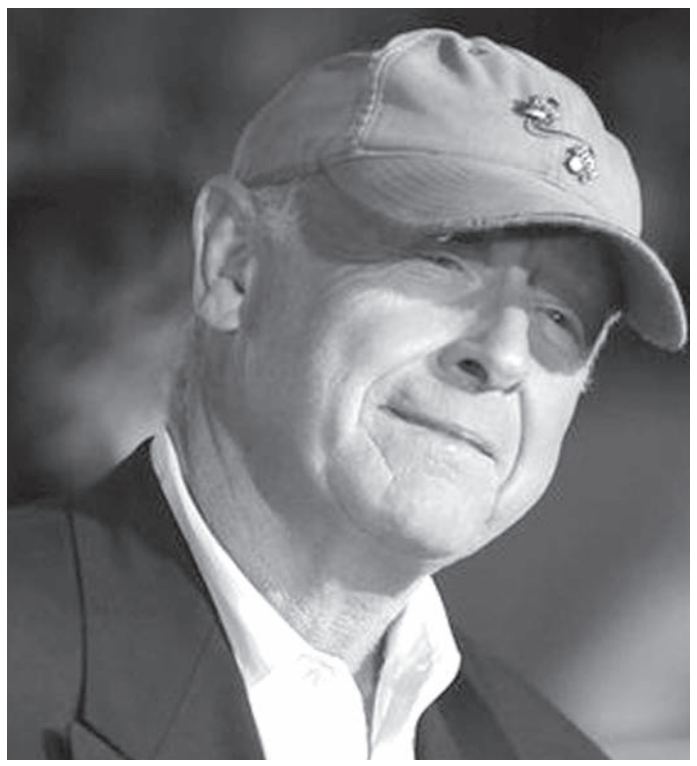
The 68-year-old Scott's death was being investigated as a suicide, Los Angeles County Coroner's Lt. Joe Bale said.

Several people called 911 around 12:35 p.m. to report that someone had jumped from the Vincent Thomas Bridge spanning San Pedro and Terminal Island in Los Angeles Harbor, according to Los Angeles police Lt. Tim Nordquist.

A dive team with Los Angeles Port Police pulled the body from the murky water several hours later, Nordquist said. Scott's body was taken to a dock in Wilmington and turned over to the county coroner's office.

One lane of the eastbound side of the bridge was closed to traffic during the investigation. Cargo vessels moved at reduced speeds through the east side of the port's main channel during the search, said Los Angeles Fire Department spokesman Brian Humphrey.

Investigators found a note in Scott's black Toyota Prius, which was parked on the bridge, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. That note listed contact information. A suicide note was later found at his office.



AP

In this Oct. 26, 2010 file photo, director Tony Scott arrives at the premiere of "Unstoppable" in Los Angeles.

The British-born Scott, who lived in Beverly Hills, was producer and director Ridley Scott's younger brother. Distinct visual styles mark both siblings' films—Ridley Scott mastering the creation of entire worlds with such films as "Gladiator," "Blade Runner," "Alien" and this year's "Prometheus," Tony Scott known for hyper-kinetic action and editing on such films as his most recent, the runaway train thriller "Unstoppable," starring regular collaborator Denzel Washington.

Tony was the first of the Scott brothers to enjoy blockbuster success with "Top Gun," starring Tom Cruise, the top-grossing film of 1986 at $176 million. Scott teamed with Cruise again four years later on the hit "Days of Thunder." He also had a sequel to "Top Gun" in development.

But Ridley Scott later managed more and bigger hits than his brother and earned a level of critical respect never achieved by Tony Scott. "Gladiator" won the best-picture Academy Award for 2000 and earned Ridley Scott one of his three best-director nominations; Tony Scott never was in the running for an Oscar, and critics often slammed his movies for emphasizing style over substance.

The two brothers ran Scott Free Productions and were working jointly on a film called "Killing Lincoln," based on the best seller by Bill O'Reilly. Their company produced the CBS dramas "NUMB3RS" and "The Good Wife" as well as a 2011 documentary about the Battle of Gettysburg for the History Channel.

Besides "Unstoppable," Scott worked with Washington on four other movies: "Crimson Tide," "Man on Fire," Deja Vu" and "The Taking of Pelham 123."

In a tweet Sunday, director Ron Howard said, "No more Tony Scott movies. Tragic day."

Other Scott films include "True Romance," written by Quentin Tarantino, "The Fan," with Robert De Niro, and "Enemy of the State," starring Will Smith.

Scott was married to actress Donna Scott, who appeared in several of her husband's films. They have twin sons.

Completed in 1963, the 6,060-foot Vincent Thomas Bridge links rises 185 feet at its highest point above the Los Angeles Harbor. Many have taken their lives by jumping from the span.

Madonna sued in Russia for supporting gays

MOSCOW (AP)—Some Russian activists have sued Madonna for millions of dollars, claiming they were offended by her support for gay rights during a recent concert in St. Petersburg.

Anti-gay sentiment is strong in Russia. In St. Petersburg, a law passed in February makes it illegal to promote homosexuality to minors, and the author of that law has pointed to the presence of children as young as 12 at Madonna's concert on Aug. 9.

Russian news agencies quote Alexander Pochuyev, a lawyer representing the nine activists, as saying the suit was filed Friday against Madonna, the organizer of her concert, and the hall where it was held, asking for damages totaling 333 million rubles, or nearly $10.5 million.

Responding to criticism that the plaintiffs were stuck in the Middle Ages, the lawyer said they were using civilized, modern methods to defend their rights. "No one is burning anyone at the stake or carrying out an Inquisition," Pochuyev was quoted by RIA Novosti as saying. "Modern civilization requires tolerance and respect for different values."

The complaint includes a video taken at the concert showing Madonna stomping on an Orthodox cross and asking fans to raise their hands to show the pink armbands in support of gays and lesbians that were distributed among the audience, the new agency reported.

Madonna's spokeswoman, Liz Rosenberg, did not immediately respond to emails asking for the singer's reaction to the lawsuit.

Madonna also has angered conservative Russians with her support for Pussy Riot. Three members of the punk band were sentenced Friday to two years in prison for a protest inside Moscow's main cathedral against Vladimir Putin and his cozy relationship with the Russian Orthodox Church.

Madonna spoke out in support of the group during her concert in St. Petersburg and two days earlier in Moscow. After the verdict was issued, Madonna called on "all those who love freedom to condemn this unjust punishment."

AP

In this picture taken Aug. 18. 2012, US singer Madonna performs one stage during a concert in Zurich, Switzerland.

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The Expendables 2
Friday 4:10 7:05 9:55
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:05 9:55
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:05
Monday thru Tuesday 4:10 7:05
Cast: Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Jet Li
Action • Rated R
Synopsis
The Expendables return with a vengeance after Tool (Mickey Rourke) departs for a dangerous mission, and comes home in a body bag. But as the battle hardened mercenaries set out to bury the men who murdered their fallen comrade, Tool's volatile daughter Fiona seeks bloody vengeance on her own terms. Later, when Fiona gets abducted by a brutal dictator who's been backed into a corner, Barney (Sylvester Stallone) and his men prepare to strike back with everything they've got.

Paranorman
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:30
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Monday thru Tuesday 4:15 7:15
Cast: Susan Dudeck, Donna Lynn Leavy
Children's/family • Rated PG
Synopsis
Writer/director Chris Butler puts his experience working on Coraline and Tim Burton's The Corpse Bride to good use in this charmingly morbid tale of an eccentric young hero facing supernatural forces that would make most grown-ups cower in fear. Featuring the voices of Casey Affleck, Jeff Garlin, John Goodman, Anna Kendrick, Leslie Mann, an...

Bourne Legacy
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:05 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:05 4:00 7:00
Monday thru Tuesday 4:00 7:00
Cast: Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz
Spy film, Action • Rated PG13

The Campaign
Friday 4:30 7:30 10:00
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Monday thru Tuesday 4:30 7:30
Cast: Will Ferrell, Zach Galifianakis
Comedy • Rated R

Total Recall
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:50
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:50
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Monday thru Tuesday 4:25 7:25
Cast: Colin Farrell, Kate Beckinsale, Jessica Biel
Science, Fiction • Rated PG13

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
Saturday 1:00 4:20 7:20 9:40
Sunday 1:00 4:20 7:20
Monday thru Tuesday 4:20 7:20
Cast: Zachary Gordon, Devon Bostick
Children's/family • Rated PG

The Dark Knight Rises
Friday 4:05 7:10 10:15
Saturday 12:55 4:05 7:10 10:15
Sunday 12:55 4:05 7:10
Monday thru Tuesday 4:05 7:10
Cast: Christian Bale, Michael Caine
Crime, Action • Rated PG13

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Look a little harder, ladies, for men ready and willing

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I'd like to respond to "Where the Boys Aren't" (May 26). We're right here every day, lady, working in the same building, going to the same functions, eating at the same diners and attending the same churches. But we don't measure up to the standards you have set.

You can find us after work at sports bars with friends having a beer, early morning weekends on the lake or stream fishing, kicking back watching a game on TV or working on a hot rod or motorcycle like the one we had—or wanted—in high school. We are NOT on a cruise, at the mall, upscale bar or wine tasting. In short, we're not doing what YOU like to do. Think about the guy you were married to who had to be dragged or nagged to the outings you enjoy.

You want to find a guy in your age range? That's easy. Step back, be honest and really look at yourself. How do you act, dress, talk? Would YOU date you? Do YOU measure up to the standards you have set for the right guy? If there's something you would change, then change it. Take the time to see who he is, what he enjoys and remember, he's not going to change, and if he did, he wouldn't be what you wanted anyway.

CONTENT, SECURE, SINGLE 58-YEAR-OLD MAN

DEAR SINGLE MAN: Thank you for taking the time to write. Apparently, these ladies need to find new hunting grounds. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I had to chuckle at "Where the Boys Aren't." Most guys would pay handsomely for the addresses of the clubs where women go to meet men. What is "Where" doing that prevents her from meeting all the men she wants? My guess is she doesn't walk up and introduce herself. She doesn't grasp that dating rules get reversed at some point. She's hoping to be swept off her feet like a schoolgirl.

My advice to older women is to stop hanging out in escape literature and move over to the magazine rack. After a certain age, even sex won't sell itself like it used to. Drive your own car and, if you plan to stay after the introductions, buy your own drinks. Arrive in pairs only with an agreement to split up if opportunity knocks. And remember, going to expensive bars will only net you a higher class of bum.

"Where" has repeatedly failed Dating 101. There's hardly a middle-aged guy in America who would turn down a woman who offered him a pizza, a cold beer and a quiet Friday night at home. I'd even help with the dishes. But everything about her spells HIDDEN AGENDA!

NAMELESS IN FLORIDA

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We're all at the gym burning off that 40-year-old fat.

LAWRENCE IN MAINE

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I can speak only for myself. Yes, I AM at home watching bad cable TV—not because I want to, but because some of us choose to be here for our elderly parents. We're not out and about except to take our mothers on errands, our dads for haircuts and both for medical appointments, on top of managing their finances and looking after their home.

Guess what? Society looks down on us because we have put their needs ahead of ours. We might not be at the typical social events, but we're out there. The next time you see a middle-aged man with a little old lady in the grocery store, bump into his cart and you might find a nice, lonely guy like me.

TONY IN CONNECTICUT

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

'Expendables 2' brawls to No. 1 with $28.8M

AP

This film image released by Lionsgate shows, from left, Yu Nan, Terry Crews, Sylvester Stallone, Randy Couture and Dolph Lundgren in a scene from "The Expendables 2."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sylvester Stallone and his beefy buddies have muscled their way to the top of the weekend box office.

Stallone's action hero roundup "The Expendables 2" debuted at No. 1 with $28.8 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. That's down from the $34.8 million start for "The Expendables" two years ago.

The Lionsgate sequel elbowed out another action tale as Universal's "The Bourne Legacy" fell to No. 2 in its second weekend with $17 million. That was a steep 55 percent drop from its $38.1 million opening weekend, though the movie's domestic total climbed to a solid $69.6 million.

Three other wide releases opened to modest business.

Focus Features' animated comedy "ParaNorman, about a boy leading the fight against zombies that rise from the grave, was No. 3 with $14 million.

Sony's music remake "Sparkle," featuring "American Idol" winner Jordin Sparks and Whitney Houston, was No. 5 with $12 million. The update of the 1976 movie centers on three sisters who form a singing group in the late 1960s.

Disney's family fantasy "The Odd Life of Timothy Green" was No. 7 with $10.9 million. The movie stars Jennifer Garner and Joel Edgerton as a childless couple who become instant parents to a boy that magically appears in their lives.

The newcomers and holdovers combined to lift Hollywood's overall business. Domestic revenues totaled $139 million, up 12 percent from the same weekend last year, when "The Help" led with $20 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

Business had been down the previous three weekends this summer, which has fallen short of the record-setting business many studio executives were predicting at the start of the season.

Since the first weekend of May, revenues total $3.9 billion, down 5 percent from last summer's, when Hollywood finished with an all-time high of $4.4 billion for the season, according to Hollywood.com.

This summer delivered huge hits such as "The Avengers" with $617.6 million domestically and "The Dark Knight Rises," which took in $11.1 million this weekend to cross the $400 million mark and edge past "The Hunger Games" to become the year's second-biggest hit.

But other releases such as "Dark Shadows," "Battleship," "The Watch" and "Total Recall" were duds that failed to live up to the summer's hype.

With only two weekends left in the season and no obvious hits premiering, it's unlikely that Hollywood will break last summer's record.

"We're winding down the summer and we're in the dog days of August. They're called that for a reason, because we're experiencing the typical summer slowdown, only it seems worse this year," said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

"The Expendables 2" also pulled in $17.3 million overseas.

Along with Stallone, "The Expendables 2" cast includes Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bruce Willis, Jason Statham, Chuck Norris and Jean-Claude Van Damme.

While the sequel drew smaller crowds than the first movie, distributor Lionsgate noted that business held up better for the new one in its second day. Revenues dipped only 3 percent from Friday to Saturday compared to 11 percent for "The Expendables," according to Lionsgate.

That's a sign that more first-night fans may be talking up the sequel, which also earned better reviews than the original.

"We believe with solid word of mouth and even critical response to the film, that bodes well for the playability," said David Spitz, Lionsgate's head of distribution. "It's the old, it's not a sprint, it's a marathon."

"Sparkle" was the first movie since 1996's "The Preacher's Wife," for Houston, who died in February. The movie was produced on a small $14 million budget, so it will not be a financial burden to Sony despite its modest earnings.

A star's death often boosts audience interest, as happened with Heath Ledger and the Batman blockbuster "The Dark Knight" or Michael Jackson and the hit music documentary "Michael Jackson: This Is It."

That did not hold true for "Sparkle," in which Houston had a supporting role as the stern but loving mother of the three singers.

"I don't think that was ever in the cards where there was this sudden interest in seeing the movie," Dergarabedian said. "There didn't seem to be that kind of, 'oh, it's Whitney Houston's last movie, we've got to go see it' attitude."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. **"The Expendables 2,"** $28.8 million ($17.3 million international).
2. **"The Bourne Legacy,"** $17 million ($18.2 million international).
3. **"ParaNorman,"** $14 million ($2 million international).
4. **"The Campaign,"** $13.4 million.
5. **"Sparkle,"** $12 million.
6. **"The Dark Knight Rises,"** $11.1 million ($20.6 million international).
7. **"The Odd Life of Timothy Green,"** $10.9 million.
8. **"Hope Springs,"** $9.1 million ($700,000 international).
9. **"Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days,"** $3.9 million ($867,000 international).
10. **"Total Recall,"** $3.5 million ($19 million international).

■ ■ ■

Estimated weekend ticket sales at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada) for films distributed overseas by Hollywood studios, according to Rentrak:

1. **"The Dark Knight Rises,"** $20.6 million.
2. **"Total Recall,"** $19 million.
3. **"The Bourne Legacy,"** $18.2 million.
4. **"The Expendables 2,"** $17.3 million.
5. **"Brave,"** $14.4 million.
6. **"Ted,"** $11.8 million.
7. **"Ice Age: Continental Drift,"** $10.1 million.
8. **"Step Up: Revolution,"** $9.2 million.

9 (tie). **"The Avengers,"** $6.7 million.

9 (tie). **"The Thieves,"** $6.7 million.

Wynonna Judd postpones shows after husband's crash

HILL CITY, S.D. (AP)—Country singer Wynonna Judd announced Sunday that she is postponing concerts scheduled in Canada next week after her husband was hurt in a motorcycle accident in South Dakota.

Judd and her husband, Michael "Cactus" Moser, were riding separate motorcycles north on U.S. Highway 16 in the Black Hills on Saturday when Moser crossed the center line and hit a car. Moser, 55, of Nashville, Tenn., was airlifted to Rapid City Regional Hospital with serious but not life-threatening injuries.

Judd was riding ahead of her husband and was not involved in the crash. The car's driver was not injured.

Moser was cited for crossing the center line and not having a motorcycle license.

Judd canceled her Saturday night show in Deadwood, a resort town in the Black Hills. Her website showed four concerts scheduled next week in Canada.

"The outpouring of prayer and support from friends, family and fans has been a blessing to both Cactus and I," she said Sunday in a statement. "Cactus is a champion. I love him deeply and I will not leave his side."

The couple was married in a private family ceremony in June in Leipers Fork, Tenn.

Judd rose to fame with her mother, Naomi, as the country duo The Judds, before she embarked on a solo career in the 1990s.

Organizers: Willie Nelson cancels Colorado event

DENVER (AP)—Organizers of a Colorado fundraiser say country music legend Willie Nelson cancelled a weekend appearance.

The 79-year-old Nelson was scheduled to perform Saturday at a private home in Castle Pines Village, Colo. The benefit was for an organization that provides animal care and shelter in the Denver area.

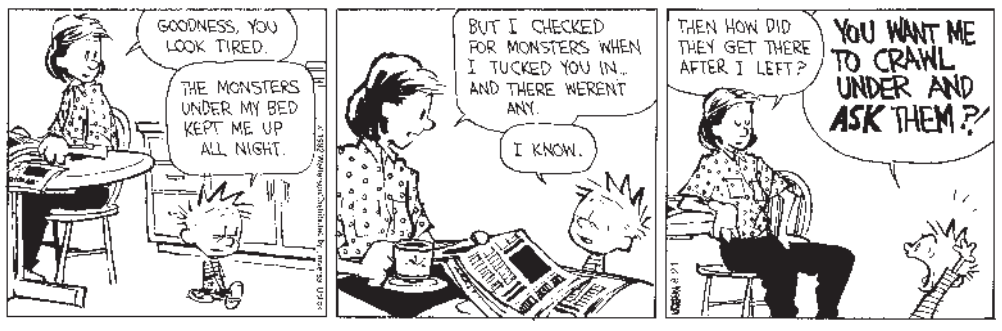
The host of the fundraiser, Fred Bartlit, tells *The Denver Post* that he was informed that Nelson was taken to the hospital after having trouble breathing.

Representatives for Nelson couldn't immediately be reached for comment Sunday night.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

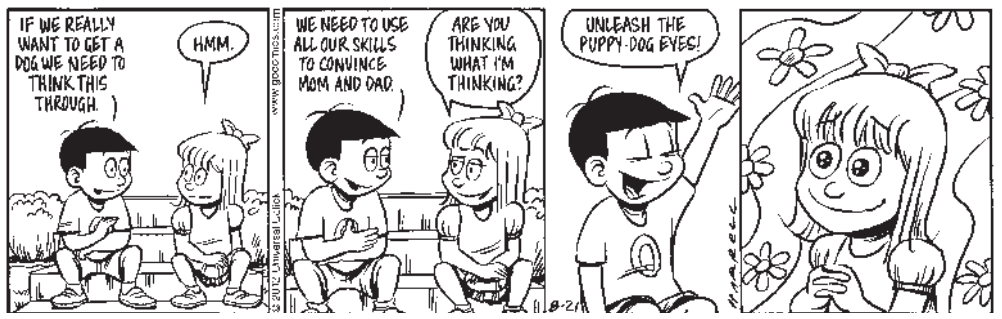

GOODNESS, YOU LOOK TIRED.
THE MONSTERS UNDER MY BED KEPT ME UP ALL NIGHT.
BUT I CHECKED FOR MONSTERS WHEN I TUCKED YOU IN.. AND THERE WEREN'T ANY.
I KNOW.
THEN HOW DID THEY GET THERE AFTER I LEFT?
YOU WANT ME TO CRAWL UNDER AND ASK THEM?!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

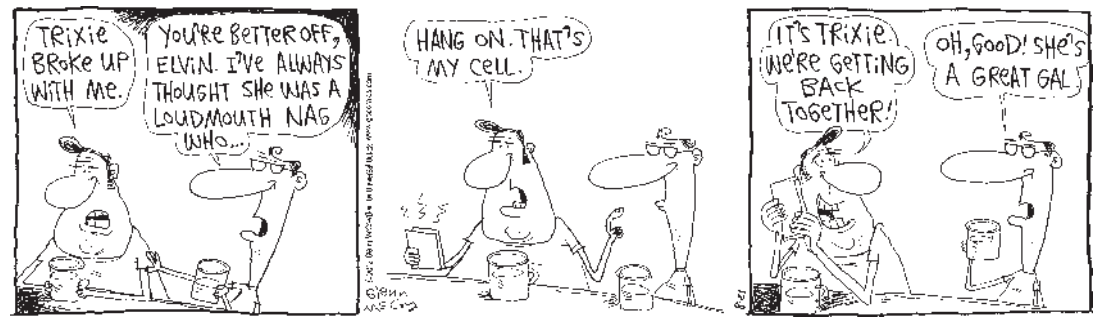
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


IF WE REALLY WANT TO GET A DOG WE NEED TO THINK THIS THROUGH.
HMM.
WE NEED TO USE ALL OUR SKILLS TO CONVINCE MOM AND DAD.
ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?
UNLEASH THE PUPPY-DOG EYES!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


TRIXIE BROKE UP WITH ME.
YOU'RE BETTER OFF, ELVIN. I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT SHE WAS A LOUDMOUTH NAG WHO...
HANG ON. THAT'S MY CELL.
IT'S TRIXIE. WE'RE GETTING BACK TOGETHER!
OH, GOOD! SHE'S A GREAT GAL

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

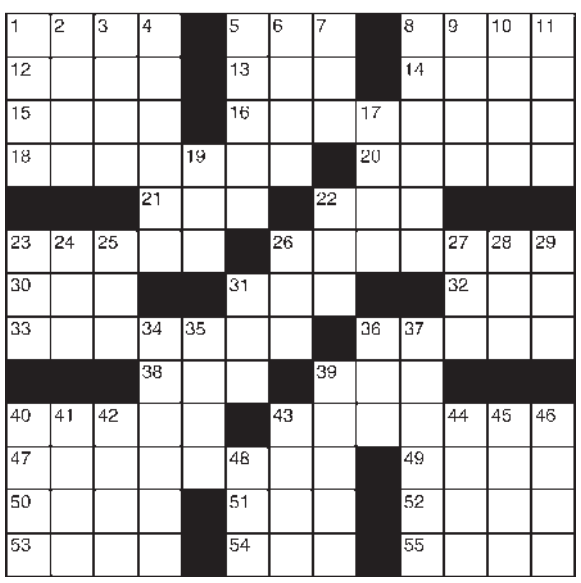
ACROSS
1 React to gravity
5 G-man's org.
8 Gym-floor padding
12 Sandwich cookie
13 "— the fields we go ..."
14 Shrek is one
15 Paper quantity
16 Leave
18 Distinguish
20 Senate staffers
21 "Monty Python" starter
22 Solidify
23 Intended
26 Faint
30 Noah's boat
31 Actor Cruise
32 Omega preceder
33 Protract
36 Tablet bearer
38 Bagel topping
39 Yon maiden
40 Rice (Sp.)
43 Endure
47 Omit
49 Emanation
50 Logical
51 Ailing
52 "— It Romantic?"
53 Probability
54 Deposit
55 "Untouchable" Eliot

DOWN
1 Dressmaker's dummy
2 Vicinity
3 Plumbing problem
4 Chinese noodle recipe
5 Concentrate (on)
6 Suspenders alternative
7 Anger
8 Aesopian conclusions
9 Enthusiastic, plus
10 Verifiable
11 Collections
17 Tarzan's clique
19 Giant in Coopers-town
22 Group of whales
23 Crazy
24 Blunder
25 Alias (Abbr.)
26 Cauldron
27 Chances, for short
28 Work with
29 "— the season to be jolly"
31 Formal wear
34 Boxer's gear
35 Seep
36 First name of 19-Down
37 Invest with authority
39 With ardor
40 Moreover
41 Peruse
42 McNally partner
43 Island dance
44 River of England
45 Coffee shop array
46 Skin art, for short
48 Lubricate

Solution time: 21 mins.

F	A	D	E	■	I	D	A	■	S	T	U	B
A	G	I	N	■	N	O	R	■	T	O	F	U
R	U	S	T	■	D	E	M	E	A	N	O	R
R	E	C	I	P	E	■	S	T	R	E	S	S
■	■	■	C	A	N	T	■	O	E	D	■	■
D	E	F	E	C	T	O	R	■	S	O	L	O
A	G	A	■	T	E	N	E	T	■	W	E	E
H	O	R	N	■	D	I	S	H	O	N	O	R
■	■	■	C	E	E	■	S	E	A	L	■	■
O	P	I	A	T	E	■	A	N	D	R	E	W
D	I	C	T	A	T	O	R	■	B	O	N	E
O	P	A	L	■	N	B	C	■	O	B	O	E
R	E	L	Y	■	A	S	H	■	Y	E	L	P

Yesterday's answer 8-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hayden Panettiere, 23; Alicia Witt, 37; Carrie-Anne Moss, 45; Kim Cattrall, 56.

Happy Birthday: You will stumble across valuable information this year that can help you expand your life personally and professionally. Travel if it will help you engage in something you want to pursue. Learning and gaining experience should be your main focus. Your numbers are 7, 13, 25, 28, 34, 42, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Preparation is key. Expect to be limited by people who don't understand what you are trying to accomplish. Believe in what you can do and forge ahead on your own. Satisfaction will be your reward along with a healthy boost of confidence. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): An opportunity to advance at work or to find a new job looks promising. Send out your resume, answer ads or set up interviews. Your enthusiasm will give you the edge that will help seal a deal you are working toward. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can settle an emotional difference you have with someone if you are honest about the way you feel. Take advantage of a proposal and you will have no regrets. Past experience will play a role in helping you get what you want now. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): An emotional matter is likely to influence the way you do things. Don't trust anyone with an important job that needs your undivided attention. Live with a situation for a while before you make a decision that cannot be reversed. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Form a tight alliance with the people you know you can trust. Working as a team player will help you earn respect. Much can be accomplished personally if you are versatile and welcome the changes that come along with sharing space or plans. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't take on too much. Before you go down that path, make sure you take care of personal matters that could make you look neglectful. Helping others is fine, but remember that charity begins at home. Offer suggestions, not time or money. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Learning should be high on your list. You will pick up information readily and be able to elaborate, turning whatever information you gather into something unique. Visiting a destination that offers you a change of scenery will do you good. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Noticing the little things will be to your advantage. Keep what you do mysterious, and pursue your goals quietly. A unique approach to a skill you have to offer will turn into a prosperous venture. When ready, share your vision with confidence. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Share your knowledge and you will get good feedback as well as the go-ahead to proceed with your plans. Helping others will bring you far more returns than expected. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You may think you have control, but emotional matters will throw you off your game. Don't make assumptions; dig deep and find out what you need to know before you make a move. A partnership may be jeopardized by what you do or say. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Tie up loose ends so you can pursue something or someone special. You can turn one of your ideas or skills into a moneymaking venture. A change at home can bring you greater cash flow. Open-mindedness will lead to an excellent offer. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A partnership with someone creative will pay off. Expand your knowledge through networking functions, reading and personal improvement projects. Make sure you are readily available to take part in an event that can enhance your plans. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative, thoughtful and intuitively intelligent. You attract good fortune.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4		1		6	
		4				8		1
	7					3	5	
8				1				9
			6	7	5			
7				4				6
	5	6					7	
3		1				2		
	9		5		3			

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	7	9	6	8	1	3	5	4
4	6	1	9	5	3	2	8	7
3	8	5	4	2	7	1	6	9
1	5	8	3	4	2	9	7	6
6	9	3	1	7	5	8	4	2
7	4	2	8	6	9	5	1	3
5	2	4	7	9	8	6	3	1
8	1	7	2	3	6	4	9	5
9	3	6	5	1	4	7	2	8

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LEROY NEIMAN (1921-2012) **Solution: 9 letters**

L	C	P	R	S	E	S	R	O	H	M	M	Z	S	A
I	E	O	O	A	L	Y	D	I	A	A	U	Z	U	T
T	L	R	L	I	R	S	E	R	I	G	R	A	P	H
H	E	T	O	L	Y	M	P	I	C	S	A	J	E	L
O	B	R	C	Y	E	S	Y	O	A	G	L	A	R	E
G	R	A	H	B	N	C	A	R	R	C	C	N	B	T
R	I	I	A	R	A	E	T	I	U	T	A	E	O	E
A	T	T	R	E	W	I	I	I	L	T	S	T	W	S
P	I	B	L	D	S	M	S	M	O	I	I	A	L	A
H	E	O	E	T	A	I	U	I	A	N	N	G	(D)	F
S	S	O	S	G	N	S	D	N	Z	N	O	G	(E)	A
C	W	K	E	E	E	U	I	P	A	I	N	T	(E)	R
E	A	S	I	U	T	M	L	A	C	A	F	E	(P)	I
N	R	N	M	S	A	U	C	T	I	O	N	S	E	S
E	D	S	S	L	E	V	A	R	T	H	G	U	A	T

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Yesterday's Answer: Delight

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD Volume 24 is available for $24.95 (including postage and handling). To order, send a check or money order to: Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106; call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480; or order online at www.uclick.com/store/puzbooks.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT Solution: Sleep on it

QQ CAR RENTAL, SAN ANTONIO
M&J BEAUTY SALON
Massage (60 mins) $15.00
Facial Care for $15.00
Manicure & Pedicure starting at $5.00
In front of PIC Z Bldg. • 10:30am - 9:30pm
Tel #s: 888-1354, 234-8855

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $29.99 without Insurance
Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
Some conditions may apply

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

SIKDER MUHSIN, Plaintiff, vs. KAREN A. TAYLOR AND JOCINTA F. CLEMEN, jointly and severally, Defendants.	Civil Action No. 12-0124C SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Verified Complaint, which is given you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon Plaintiff's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Verified Complaint.

BY ORDER OF THE ABOVE COURT:
Dated this 31st of May, 2012

/s/ Clerk of Court

Theodosia K. Sanchez
P.O. Box 94
Tinian, MP 96952
Telephone No.: (670) 433-9212

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For: Kioni K. Sablan Sialeinna Theodosia Emiliana S. King, Minor Children, By: Theodosia K. Sanchez Petitioner	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 12 – 0389T NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on September 28, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom Tinian, before Associate Judge Perry Inos.

Dated this 16th day of August, 2012.

Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

EMPLOYMENT

(3) Child Caregiver. Salary: $ 5.05/hr. Minimum 2 years experience in handling kids and CPR Certified. Fax resume to Sisters Corp. Inc. 233-6828.

FOR SALE

2010 Honda CR-V LX $15,900.00
Excellent Running Condition
19K Mileage. Pls call 287-4411

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

SANDY BEACH HOMES Energy efficient 3BR, 2BTH beachfront Chalan Kanoa. Security cams, back-up power/water, washer/dryer in unit, AC, solar water heater. Income eligibility req. apply. $695. 235-7263. www.sandybeachhomes.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are currently seeking positive, outgoing individuals for the position of:

CLUBMATE

Applicants must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements as well as a swim test that includes a 300 yard continuous swim. Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays with good verbal and written communication skills. Korean, Japanese or Russian language skills a plus.

All applications are available at PIC's Security desk at the south end of the hotel. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
Application deadline is **5pm on Thursday, August 23, 2012.**

PIC Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

P.O Box 500369 Saipan MP 96950 • Tel # (670) 234-6601 Fax # (670) 234-8007

(1) MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR

Qualifications: Responsible for efficiently coordinating work with other departments of the organization. Assists the supervising manager with preparation of monthly reports such as utilities consumption and departmental maintenance trouble calls. Prepares the schedule for departmental job orders. Minimum of three (3) years work experience as maintenance coordinator preferably in a hotel. Strong ability to read and follow verbal instructions. Proficient in Microsoft office applications and other software. Must have knowledge in Basic Accounting. Willing to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Applications can be obtained from Kanoa Resort's security office located on the Hotel's Backside. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than August 23, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort, is located next to Saipan World Resort Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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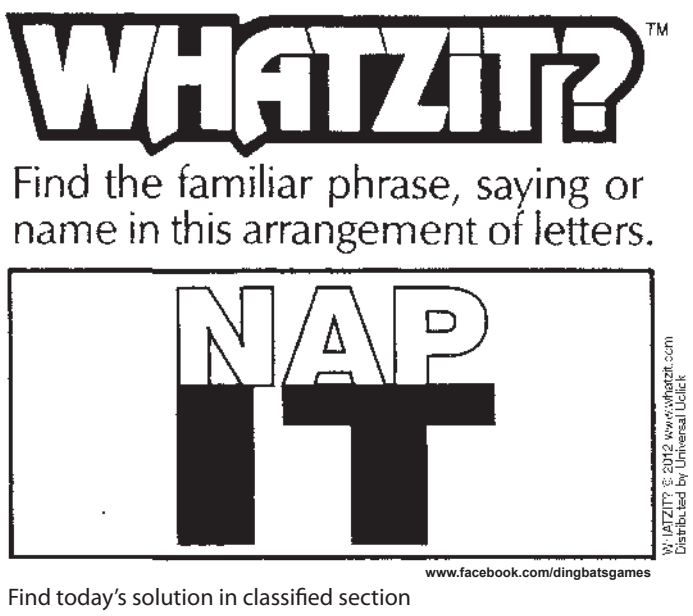
Email: mawfguam@ite.net
www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune



Find today's solution in classified section

Pirates edge Cards in classic 19th-inning game

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Pedro Alvarez homered in the 19th inning as the Pittsburgh Pirates won the longest game in the majors this season, outlasting the St. Louis Cardinals 6-3 Sunday.

It took 6 hours, 7 minutes to finish. Both teams scored a run in the 17th, and each club used eight pitchers.

Alvarez hit his 23rd homer, a solo shot off Barret Browning (1-3). Andrew McCutchen added a two-run single later in the inning.

Wandy Rodriguez (8-12), who was set to start for the Pirates on Monday night at San Diego, got the win with two scoreless innings of relief.

About 9,000 fans from the original crowd of more than 43,000 stayed until the end. This was the longest game by innings in the big leagues this year. At 6:07, it tied for the longest by time, matching a game between Baltimore and Boston on May 6.

Each team had played a marathon in recent years. St. Louis went 20 innings against the Mets on April 17, 2010, and Pittsburgh played 19 innings at Atlanta on July 26, 2011.

The Pirates improved to 4-0 in extra innings this season. They moved two games ahead of St. Louis in the race for the last wild card spot in the NL. The Cardinals have lost three of four overall.

"It was a battle all around on both sides," McCutchen said. "They came to play and we were just able to get the win.

It feels good."

Alvarez picked on a slider from Browning and drove it 408 feet.

"It felt good out of my hand," Browning said. "It just stayed up. It don't think I've ever been this disappointed. I just didn't do my job."

AP

Pittsburgh Pirates relief pitcher Wandy Rodriguez throws during the nineteenth inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012, in St. Louis. The Pirates won,6-3.

Associate of suspended Cabrera attempted to fabricate defense

NEW YORK (AP)—An associate of San Francisco Giants All-Star Melky Cabrera purchased a website and attempted to create evidence to support a claim that the outfielder inadvertently took the substance that caused a positive drug test, Major League Baseball said.

Baseball officials uncovered the scheme as Cabrera prepared his case to challenge the test. Cabrera's grievance then was dropped, and MLB announced a 50-game suspension Wednesday.

The New York Daily News first reported on the scheme Sunday.

A team of six-to-seven investigators from MLB spent several weeks working to uncover the plan, a baseball official familiar with the probe told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because MLB didn't authorize anyone to discuss the matter publicly.

It's the first such case MLB has had and officials hope that uncovering the scheme will discourage similar attempts.

The person said baseball had referred the case to federal investigators.

A second baseball official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said additional discipline against Cabrera was unlikely.

Cabrera, MVP of the All-Star game last month, tested positive for testosterone, MLB said.

The person said Juan Nunez, who works with Cabrera's agents, purchased an existing website and attempted to alter it in a manner that would allow Cabrera to claim the positive test was caused by a substance obtained through the website. The News reported Nunez paid $10,000 for the website.

"If you create a new website, you would know when the website was created," the baseball official said. "At least they were smart enough to buy an existing website."

The baseball official said MLB investigators were able to use their forensic resources to trace the website back to Nunez.

Cabrera is represented by brothers Sam and Seth Levinson of ACES, a sports management company based in Brooklyn. The Levinsons told the Daily News that Nunez was a "paid consultant" of their agency.

"The MLBPA has clearly stated that ACES has no connection to the website or this matter and, as reported, Juan Nunez has taken full responsibility for his acts," Seth Levinson told The Associated Press. "There is nothing more we can add and we will allow our reputation in the industry for 27 years to speak for itself."

The second baseball official said MLB intends to ask the Major League Baseball Players Association, which regulates agents, to follow up on the situation at ACES.

Cabrera was enjoying the best season of his big league career, helping the Giants contend for a postseason berth. He was hitting .346 with 11 homers and 60 RBIs, but will miss the rest of the regular season and the start of the playoffs, if the Giants advance that far.

A former member of the New York Yankees, Atlanta Braves and Kansas City Royals, Cabrera is eligible for free agency after the World Series.

San Francisco manager Bruce Bochy declined to discuss the allegations against Cabrera before the Giants played the Padres in San Diego. He didn't defend his player's actions, either.

"You can be world-class parents and your kids can go south or have some issues. We can't follow guys 24/7, and it comes down to choices. (Cabrera) is a grown man, he's a veteran," Bochy said. "These are unfortunate things and we'll continue to work at cleaning out baseball."

Diamondbacks 8, Astros 1

In Houston, the Astros lost in their first game under interim manager Tony DeFrancesco as Aaron Hill homered twice to give Arizona the win and a sweep.

DeFrancesco was the manager at Triple-A Oklahoma City before being promoted. The Astros, with the worst record in the majors, fired Brad Mills late Saturday night.

Nationals 5, Mets 2

In Washington, Bryce Harper homered and tripled, and Danny Espinosa also homered to lift Washington over New.

Gio Gonzalez (16-6) pitched into the sixth inning, allowing one run and seven hits. Tyler Clippard pitched a perfect ninth for his 27th save in 31 chances.

Dodgers 5, Braves 0

In Atlanta, Chad Billingsley combined with two relievers on a three-hitter to win his sixth straight start, and Luis Cruz homered for the second game in a row as Los Angeles beat Atlanta.

Mark Ellis drove in four runs, three with a bases-loaded double in the ninth.

Reds 5, Cubs 4

In Cincinnati, Xavier Paul led off the ninth inning with a pinch-hit triple and Ryan Hanigan followed with a single to lift Cincinnati over Chicago.

Paul lined the first pitch from Shawn Camp (3-6) over first base into the right-field corner. Hanigan hit the next pitch to left-center over the drawn-in Chicago outfield.

Rockies 3, Marlins 2

In Denver, Jordan Pacheco homered among his three hits as the banged-up Colorado Rockies slowed down Giancarlo Stanton and beat Miami.

Stanton went homerless for the first time in seven games at Coors Field. On Saturday night, he became the first player in big league history to homer in his first six games in a particular park.

Padres 7, Giants 1

In San Diego, Clayton Richard pitched eight sparkling innings and Cameron Maybin drove in three runs as San Diego snapped a five-game losing streak by beating San Francisco.

The Giants dropped out of first in the NL West and trail the Dodgers by a half-game heading into their big three-game series in Los Angeles. Madison Bumgarner is scheduled to face Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw in the opener on Monday night.

Phillies 8, Brewers 0

In Milwaukee, Kyle Kendrick pitched three-hit ball for eight innings as Philadelphia beat Milwaukee after waiting out a rare rain delay at Miller Park.

The game was held up for 7 minutes when showers popped up in the first inning with the retractable roof still open. It takes about 10 minutes for the roof to fully shut, and the game was delayed with the Brewers batting in the bottom half when the rain became harder.

Rays 8, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Matt Moore shrugged off home runs by Mike Trout and Albert Pujols to win his fourth straight decision as the Tampa Bay Rays completed a four-game sweep of the fading Los Angeles Angels with an 8-3 victory.

Tampa Bay tagged Zack Greinke (1-2) and outscored the Angels 37-14 in the series—the Rays set a team record for runs in a four-game set.

Orioles 7, Tigers 5

In Detroit, Nate McLouth hit a go-ahead, two-run triple as Baltimore rallied to beat Detroit.

McLouth, Nick Markakis and Mark Reynolds each had two hits for the Orioles, who have won five of seven, including the last two of the key weekend series at Detroit. Chris Davis homered for the second straight game and J.J. Hardy had a two-run double.

Yankees 4, Red Sox 1

In New York, Ichiro Suzuki homered twice and Hiroki Kuroda pitched eight innings of four-hit ball to lead New York past Boston.

Derek Jeter had three hits and scored twice for the Yankees, who took two of three from Boston despite playing the entire series without slugger Mark Teixeira.

Royals 5, White Sox 2

In Kansas City, Missouri, Jeremy Guthrie flirted with a no-hitter and Salvador Perez drove in three runs as Kansas City completed a three-game series sweep of American League Central leading Chicago.

Guthrie allowed two unearned runs and three hits in 7 2-3 innings. Greg Holland (6-3) retired the final four batters to pick up the victory.

Rangers 11, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Michael Young hit a three-run homer and a two-run double to power Texas past Toronto.

David Murphy also connected and doubled twice and Geovany Soto had three hits as baseball's highest scoring offense passed 600 runs for the season. The AL West leaders top the majors with 606 runs scored.

Mariners 5, Twins 1

In Seattle, Michael Saunders hit a two-run homer and Blake Beavan pitched into the sixth inning as Seattle picked up its fifth straight victory.

The Mariners held a slim 2-1 lead before Saunders drove a 1-0 pitch from Jeff Gray over the wall in right in the seventh. Dustin Ackley, who led off with a double, was aboard for Saunders' career-best 11th homer.

Athletics 7, Indians 0

In Oakland, California, Jarrod Parker pitched eight sharp innings and Coco Crisp homered and drove in five runs to help Oakland finish off the three-game sweep of Cleveland.

Brandon Moss also homered and Cliff Pennington scored three times. The A's won their fourth in a row and moved 10 games over .500, matching their high mark of the season.

LeBron honored in minor league game

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—LeBron James squeezed his mom's hands, the way he did as a kid.

Moments before being honored again in his hometown, where they still love him and always will, James stood among family members and friends. With the days in this summer of summers dwindling quickly, this was another moment to savor. So as he waited to be introduced, James hugged his mom, Gloria, around the neck, took out his phone and snapped their picture.

He was home.

"I know this place," he said, "and it knows me."

Fresh off leading the U.S. men's team to a gold medal at the London Olympics, James was praised Sunday during a minor league game for his recent basketball accomplishments—an MVP award, NBA title and the gold—and for giving back to Akron, where his "Wheels For Education" initiative has provided inner-city kids with supplies, programs, mentors, and above all, hope.

"I was one of these kids," James said. ''It means everything to me to be able to give back. I have a passion for it. I love seeing kids smile, and for them to have someone who can lead them. For me to be in this position and being able to help and give back, means a lot."

James received a warm ovation from the crowd of 3,843—more than double the average attendance—when he walked onto the infield at Canal Park, home of the Double-A Akron Aeros, during the middle of the eighth inning escorted by Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic.

As James reached the area in front of the pitcher's mound, infielders for the Reading Phillies lined up on the grass between first and second base and gawked at the superstar.

It was also going according to plan before a malfunctioning microphone caused several anxious and awkward moments.

AP

NBA star and Akron native LeBron James greets third and fourth graders from the Akron Public Schools as he kicks off the LeBron James Family Foundation's Wheels for Education "Time to Promise" School Year event at Canal Park during an Akron Aeros game Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012 in Akron, Ohio.

Plusquellic's comments kept cutting out over the ballpark's speaker system, allowing two anti-James fans, one of them wearing a Cleveland Browns jersey, sitting a few rows behind Akron's dugout to shout "traitor" and other insults at James, who seemed unsure of what to do as the delay dragged on and stadium personnel scrambled to find a new microphone.

When it became apparent James would not be able to address the crowd, he posed for pictures and then left the field, slapping hands with a few Reading players who leaned over their dugout railing to greet the All-Star, who was mobbed by fans as he made his way up the aisle.

It was somewhat poetic, James going in one week from stepping onto a gold-medal podium with his teammates on the world's largest stage to a mix-up inside a minor league ballpark where he grew up and where Thursday's postgame entertainment will include midget wrestling.

Before taking the field, James retreated to a dusty stairwell corner with large rakes leaning on one cinder-block wall and reflected on his spectacular summer, a three-month whirlwind of awards that began with his third MVP trophy and was capped by a second gold medal.

James told the Associated Press he would like to play in a fourth Olympics. He has not yet informed USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo of his intentions, but the 27-year-old said he'd like to step inside the five rings one more time.

"We haven't had that conversation," James said. ''But if I'm healthy, I did the math and I'll be 31, and if I have the opportunity to be out there, I will do it. I love it. I love being a part of it and representing my country. I don't know what may happen in four years, but it would be great to be back out there again. Definitely."

Since winning gold, James said he hasn't heard from any members of the immortalized 1992 Dream Team, which scoffed at the idea that this year's U.S. Olympic team could beat them.

"Nah," he said. "I don't expect to hear from any of them."

James was the U.S. team's best all-around player in London, doing whatever coach Mike Krzyzewski needed while leading the Americans to their second straight gold. He was virtually unstoppable, just as he was in carrying the Miami Heat to an NBA championship in June.

In doing so, he silenced those critics who wondered if he could ever win the big one. James is on top, and he plans to stay there.

"I want that feeling again," he said of winning his first title.

James doesn't know if being a champion—and the only player other than Michael Jordan to win an MVP, an NBA title and Olympic gold in the same year - will change the way he's viewed. Since announcing his decision to leave Cleveland as a free agent two years ago, he has been cast as the villain, reviled outside South Florida perhaps more than any athlete in memory.

Some fans have moved on. Some can't. Some never will.

James once succumbed to the pressure produced by the constant condemnation. He's not bothered by it any longer.

Love him or hate him, James is only going to be himself.

"I don't even get involved with that anymore," he said. "I don't look for it. I don't shy away from it. I just kind of roll with what's going on. For me, and it started before last season, I came in with a different mindset and a different attitude and it didn't matter if you believed in me or not, I was still going to be how I was and stay true to who I was and who I am.

"And that's all that matters."

Hornets give coach Monty Williams 4-year extension

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Monty Williams took his first NBA head coaching job with the Hornets at a time when the franchise was defined by uncertainty.

Star players were looking to leave and no one knew who the next owner would be, or even if the team would remain in New Orleans long term.

Williams kept his focus on coaching, and has been rewarded with a four-year extension running through the 2015-16 season.

"The problems we have in the NBA are really good problems to have," Williams said in a phone interview with The Associated Press on Sunday, the day the club announced his extension. "I would have loved to have all the ducks in a row and all the other good things everybody else had in their organizations, but that just wasn't my reality and at the same time my job hadn't changed and my players needed me to be focused on my job."

The new deal comes as the 40-year-old Williams heads into the final year of the first head coaching contract he signed in 2010.

The Hornets didn't release contract terms. Williams confirmed the length of the extension, but declined to discuss his pay other than to say, "It's more than I deserve."

Williams took the Hornets to the playoffs his first season with a 46-36 record. Last season, the club went 21-45 after trading star Chris Paul to the Los Angeles Clippers in a deal that helped New Orleans build for the future with the acquisition of 23-year-old shooting guard Eric Gordon and an additional first-round draft choice.

The Hornets then won the NBA's draft lottery, selected Kentucky star Anthony Davis first overall and added Duke's Austin Rivers with the 10th pick.

This offseason, the Hornets have traded to acquire forward Ryan Anderson from Orlando and center Robin Lopez from Phoenix.

"The Hornets have a promising future and an exciting young nucleus," said Hornets executive vice president Mickey Loomis. "It is our opinion that Monty is the perfect coach to develop and lead this group of talent going forward."

Rain forces delay at Wyndham with Garcia leading

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)—It's been four years since Sergio Garcia's last PGA Tour victory. He'll have to wait one more day before he can try to finish this one off.

And a downpour at the Wyndham Championship meant another day of uncertainty for others on the playoff bubble.

Garcia had the lead at 15 under through four holes Sunday when the final round in the last event before the FedEx Cup playoffs was suspended for the day because of heavy rain.

Tim Clark, Jason Dufner and Bud Cauley were 14 under through varying stages of their rounds, and 38 players - half the field—were still on the course when play was stopped.

After waiting roughly 2 hours, 20 minutes, officials decided to bring them back to Sedgefield Country Club at 9 a.m. Monday to crown a champion and figure out who qualifies for the playoffs and who doesn't. It will be the first Monday finish in Greensboro since 1983.

Tour officials said more than 2 inches of rain fell on the course since Saturday night and Mark Russell, the tour's vice president of rules and competition, said the 15th hole became "unplayable."

The stoppage came at 3:10 p.m. when the showers picked up, and it was expected to be only a brief delay, with the players initially staying on the course. Officials reversed that decision and brought them in a short while later.

Then, when the initially announced restart time of 5 p.m. was pushed back twice—first to 5:30 p.m., then 6 p.m.—it made it virtually impossible for the final pairing to finish 14 holes in the roughly 2 hours of remaining daylight and guaranteed a Monday finish.

The decision to suspend things was announced at 5:28 p.m.

"It started raining and just wouldn't stop. The golf course got to the point where it was saturated," Russell said. "We got to a point where we knew we couldn't finish ... so we made a decision that we would let it drain tonight, come back in the morning and be in position to resume play at 9 o'clock."

Clark, who started the day a stroke behind Garcia after letting a few birdie chances get away late in the third round, birdied two of his first four holes to match Garcia at 15 under. A bogey on the par-5 fifth—the most frequently eagled hole on the course—dropped him back a stroke, and he was in the fairway on No. 6 when the rain delay came.

"Obviously, we'd all like to continue playing," Clark said. "You get into a rhythm out there, and you'd like to keep going. But it's going to be the same for all of us. It's just a tough situation."

Garcia began the day at 14 under and had three pars and a birdie on the par-3 third. He was preparing for a 40-yard chip when play stopped.

Garcia, who hasn't won on tour since the 2008 Players Championship, also wants a spot on the European Ryder Cup team. The 10 automatic qualifiers will be set following the Johnny Walker Invitational, with Jose Maria Olazabal making two captain's picks.

Garcia certainly made a case for inclusion with his play this week, following his second-round 63—his lowest round on tour in a decade—with a 66 that gave him a one-stroke lead entering the final round.

While Garcia continued his chase for that spot, other players were trying to secure a spot in the playoffs that begin later this week. The top 125 on the points list qualify for The Barclays at Bethpage Black.

Heath Slocum, who arrived at No. 128, was at 11 under through 13 holes and was at No. 120 on the projected standings.

Every stroke was critical for Y.E. Yang, who came to Greensboro at No. 129 and needed a strong final round to push his way into the postseason. He finished at 6 under following a third straight 69 and was projected to miss the playoffs at No. 127 when play stopped.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

New York	72	49	.595	–
Tampa Bay	67	54	.554	5
Baltimore	66	55	.545	6
Boston	59	63	.484	13 1/2
Toronto	56	65	.463	16

Central Division

Chicago	65	55	.542	–
Detroit	64	57	.529	1 1/2
Kansas City	54	66	.450	11
Cleveland	54	67	.446	11 1/2
Minnesota	50	70	.417	15

West Division

Texas	70	50	.583	–
Oakland	65	55	.542	5
Los Angeles	62	60	.508	9
Seattle	58	64	.475	13

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	75	46	.620	–
Atlanta	70	51	.579	5
New York	57	64	.471	18
Philadelphia	56	65	.463	19
Miami	55	67	.451	20 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	74	48	.607	–
Pittsburgh	67	54	.554	6 1/2
St. Louis	65	56	.537	8 1/2
Milwaukee	54	66	.450	19
Chicago	47	73	.392	26
Houston	39	83	.320	35

West Division

Los Angeles	67	55	.549	–
San Francisco	66	55	.545	1/2
Arizona	62	59	.512	4 1/2
San Diego	53	70	.431	14 1/2
Colorado	46	73	.387	19 ½

PGA-WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

GREENSBORO, North Carolina (AP)–Scores Sunday from the Wyndham Championship, a PGA Tour event played at the 7,117-yard, par-70 Sedgefield Country Club. Play suspended due to rain with 38 golfers left to finish. Play will resume Monday

FINAL ROUND

Chris Kirk	66-69-69-67–271
Rod Pampling	68-66-70-68–272
Charles Howell III	67-69-71-66–273
Nick Watney	66-69-70-68–273
Josh Teater	67-71-69-67–274
Ryan Moore	71-68-68-67–274
Y.E. Yang	67-69-69-69–274
Jeff Overton	69-69-67-69–274
Russell Knox	68-68-69-69–274
Kyle Reifers	67-72-66-69–274
Kevin Kisner	68-71-70-66–275
Kevin Stadler	73-65-68-69–275
Nick O'Hern	68-71-67-69–275
Jerry Kelly	72-67-69-68–276
Jamie Donaldson	68-66-71-71–276
Alexandre Rocha	68-68-69-71–276
David Mathis	63-71-73-70–277
Derek Lamely	69-68-70-70–277
Jonas Blixt	72-67-67-71–277
Charlie Wi	72-67-70-69–278
Chez Reavie	67-69-71-71–278
Ryuji Imada	67-70-70-71–278
Scott Dunlap	70-69-67-72–278
Blake Adams	67-71-67-73–278
Troy Kelly	71-68-69-71–279
Billy Mayfair	69-70-74-67–280
Jeff Maggert	68-71-74-68–281
Tom Pernice Jr.	70-68-74-70–282
Arjun Atwal	66-69-75-72–282
Brendan Steele	72-65-71-74–282
Cameron Beckman	73-66-69-74–282
Camilo Villegas	72-67-70-74–283
Ben Kohles	72-67-70-74–283
Stuart Appleby	67-71-69-76–283
Jason Kokrak	66-69-77-73–285
Chris Stroud	68-70-72-75–285
Paul Casey	68-70-77-75–290

LEADERBOARD

	SCORE	THRU
1. Sergio Garcia	-15	4
2. Tim Clark	-14	5
2. Jason Dufner	-14	5
2. Bud Cauley	-14	4
5. Chad Campbell	-12	9
5. Bill Haas	-12	9
5. Jimmy Walker	-12	8
5. Harris English	-12	6
9. John Merrick	-11	13
9. Heath Slocum	-11	13
9. Nicolas Colsaerts	-11	12
9. Scott Stallings	-11	12
9. Will Claxton	-11	8
9. Justin Leonard	-11	8
9. Matt Every	-11	7
9. Davis Love III	-11	7

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Diamond Force leads top placers in SEDA league

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Es'y Kitchen's Diamond Force is among the frontrunners in the Saipan Electronic Dart Association's 2012 Summer/Fall Bud Light Dart League.

Diamond Force routed Sand's Bar Juvy Especialist (4-27), 16-1, on the road to jump into the driver's seat with its 33-18 record.

In other results, Joe's Dart Seekers (31-20) worked out a 12-5 road win over SOS Bar & Grill's Mixblood Rookies (20-31) to move up a couple rungs into second place, while former league leader SOS' Fantastic Baby! (30-21) dropped to the third spot after absorbing an 8-9 upset at the hands of VFW Post 3457's Maharot Crew (28-23).

Oceanside Bar & Grill's Destroyers (29-22) edged SOS's The Joker (29-22), 9-8, at home.

Notables include a 160 high-in by Diamond Force's Rick Elefante and a 128 high-out by Maharot Crew's Wilson Quiban.

In other standings, Jonny's Bar & Grill's Kyodai and Joe's Steakhouse's Oneshot lead the B Flame Tree and B Fanihi, respectively, while Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Zynikato is on top of the C division, and Jonny's DPL Sakude III paces the inter-government grouping.

Kyodai has third placer Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Team Exotic (25-20) to thank for surpassing former big dog Bammy's Lilapuching (27-18) in the standings last Thursday. Team Exotic pulled off an 11-4 shocker on the road, enabling Kyodai access to the top spot. Kyodai bowed to Joe's Real Deal (22-23), 7-8, but the former's 30-15 record still tops the league by three games.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joe's Steakhouse's Dart Seekers, pictured in this recent file photo, defeated SOS Bar & Grill's Mixblood Rookies, 12-5, to move into second place in the Masters division of the SEDA league.

In other results, Joe's Dart K'nytes (19-26) and Bammy's TaK'Ka Hao (19-26) snuck past Juvy Refalauns (17-28) and VFW's Dutty Gunz (21-24), respectively, posting similar 8-7 road victories.

Notables include a 114 high-out by Kyodai's Allan Cabrera and a 152 high-in Tony Tomokane, also of Kyodai's.

B Fanihi's Oneshot, which was in third place before, switched seats with erstwhile-league leader VFW Naughty Boyz (24-21) after the former's 11-4 win last Thursday.

Oneshot improved to a 29-16 card and fronts IT&E Na'Gupu (27-18), which maintained the second place with an 8-7 home win at Naked Fish over fourth-ranked Bammy's DJ Fish (23-22).

Es'y's Kitchen Taya Guaha (21-24) upset Jonny's Rehab (20-25), 9-6, on the road and Es'y's Kitchen Darters (19-26) bested Oceanside's Shooters 17-28), 10-5, also at home.

Scoring notables remain a 160 high-in by John Cabrera and a 121 high-out by Scott Guerrero.

Zyndikato maintained control over the C division, however its lead was sliced to just one win despite a strong 11-4 home win over Jonny's Sparks (17-28). Zyndiakto has a 32-13 slate.

Naked Fish's Hafa Mas and Sand's Bar Lupeyt are breathing down Zyndikato' necks with their identical 31-14 records.

Hafa Mas romped Oceanside's M-Side Shooters (12-33), 13-2, while Bar Lupeyt soared past sister squad Aschoascho (16-29), 12-3, in a home draw.

In other results, Island Apparel's OH! MG (24-21), clipped Oceanside's Shottas (21-24), 10-5, on the road and SOS' s Joker Royal (18-27) went into VFW and downed the Warriors (23-22), 9-6.

In the inter-government division, Sakude III torched bottom feeder Naked Fish NMC Proa (5-25), 14-1, in a home match to improve to a 22-8 card and clinch first place.

Sakude III heads Naked Fish's CRMO Primos (27-18), which defeated Bammy's Team CUC (24-21), 10-5, at home. SOS's DPS Bad Boyz (12-18) was on a bye last week.

CHENTSOVA

From Page 24

In local events, Chentsova participated in the 2012 SSC International Invitational Meet in April and ruled the girls 13 to 14 age group. She raced in the 200 meter freestyle (2:24.64), 100 meter freestyle (1:07.85), 100 meter backstroke (1:19.16), and 50 meter freestyle (31.03 seconds). The Saipan International School student also swam in the 50 meter backstroke and her 36.62 seconds was recognized as an age group record in the girls 13 to 14 division.

The ninth grader also competed in the 2012 Guam Swimming Championships in May and finished third overall in her age group after topping one event and placing runner-up in four other races. In Guam, she logged three PBTs, including a 1:05:85 in the 100m freestyle event.

From the Hagatna pool in Guam, Chentsova went to the Cocos Island in the southern coast of the host and topped the 11 to 14 age group of the 2.5-mile open water swim. She was the second female swimmer out of the water and No. 8th overall among 178 participants.

Chentsova also joined the SSC Escape from Managaha this year and was the first finisher of the 2.4-kilometer race after clocking in at 38:09.10, which was two minutes faster than her 2011 time.

When she is not competing, Chentsova is joining SSC's practice sessions five to six times a week under the wing of coaches Mieko Carey and Minerva Cabrera. Chentsova also undergoes water polo training with another SSC coach, Jeff El-Hajj and a couple of months ago was part of the club's coaching staff that conducted the American Red Cross Learn to Swim Program at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

TWO

From Page 24

victory ahead of Playboy and Micronesian Brokers, Inc. San Antonio is in fourth place with its 3-1 card, followed by defending champion KFC/Taco Bell (1-1), Wushin Express (1-1), Blue Haus (1-2), Mawati (0-2), and Hip Hop (0-3).

Brian Ajoste and Brian Chan built the early foundation for Zhaila's to force Blue Haus to play catch up the whole night. Ajoste and Chan had 7 points apiece in Zhaila's 27-16 scoring in the first period. Blue Haus was in a deep hole early, as it was held to only four field goals in the opening canto and had limited offensive options after only seven players showed up for the game.

Ajoste picked up where he left off in the second period, sizzling for 11 points before the halftime break to increase Zhaila's lead to 15, 50-35. Chan had a quiet 2 points, but Jeff Bahillo filled the gap, scoring five straight points in the homestretch to up Zhaila's advantage.

Blue Haus improved on offense a bit in the second half with its 19 points, but most of them came from Sam Fernandez, who had 8 in that canto.

Zhaila's lead climbed up to 20-plus points on several occasions in the third quarter with Ajoste and company getting away with easy fastbreak baskets against the depleted and tired Blue Haus crew.

Then in the fourth quarter Blue Haus managed to slice the deficit to as low as 11 points, 80-69, with over four minutes left on the clock. However, Zhaila's hit back-to-back long jumpers in the ensuing plays to prevent Blue Haus from moving closer. Ron Mostales canned a 15-footer from the left baseline, while Jeff Bahillo drained a triple on the opposite side.

With Zhaila's regaining a comfortable lead, the team's second stringers reported in the last two minutes of the game and closed the match with a 13-point winning margin.

Ajoste top-scored for Zhaila's with his 30 big points, while Jeff Bahillo and Brian Chan contributed 16 and 11, respectively. Edwin Camacho led Blue Haus with 22, while Fernandez added 21. Mel Capalad chipped in 14 for Blue Haus, which drew only 13 markers from the rest of its players. Zhaila's played with a full 12-player roster and 11 of them broke into the scoreboard, resulting to a 24-point bench production.

Zhaila's All Starz 92 – Ajoste 30, Jef. Bahillo 16, Chan 11, R. Lansang 8, Hernandez 6, Mostales 5, Sula 4, Aranda 4, Ja. Bahillo 4, E. Lansang 2, Jer. Bahillo 2.

Blue Haus 79 – Camacho 22, Fernandez 21, Capalad 14, Galulu 6, Olivos 4, Siriban 3.

Scoring by quarters: 27-16, 50-35, 78-52, 92-79.

JOHN

From Page 24

the deadlock. Cruz managed to beat Frank Castro, Juan Lizama, Larry Deleon Guerrero, Tony Deleon Guerrero in the five-player logjam and earn a ticket to the season-ending SGA Ace of the Aces tournament.

The July Ace winner joins the company of Bob Magofna (January Ace), Juan L. Babauta (February), Krishnan (March), Art Deleon Guerrero (April), Ben Aldan (May), and Ned Norita (June).

The 7 monthly winners and the remaining 5 will duke it out for the coveted SGA Cup, which Mariano Fajardo won last year. Mariano prevailed over Ray Dela Cruz, Frances M. Sablan, Tony Deleon Guerrero, Edward Manibusan, and Jess Castro.

Meanwhile, the July Ace tournament played at MCC on July 29 also featured closest to the pin and longest drive contests. Closest to the pin winners were Ed Sablan on No. 6, Frank Castro on No. 8, and Juan L. Babauta and Bob Magofna on hole Nos. 12 and 16, respectively. Adam Hardwicke swept the longest drive competitions on hole Nos. 2 and 11.

SGA also had its August Ace of the Month event last Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf Links and winners will be announced once the results are in. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

WANNA-BE'S

From Page 24

the semifinals after eking out a 45-40 win against the Hip Hop Thunder on Aug. 11.

Wanna-Be's buried four three-pointers in the first half to establish a double-digit lead at halftime, 24-14. Dan Barcinas led the charge with two treys and nailed 8 points in the opening frame. Ben Lisua salvaged 6 markers for the Hoops, who stumbled out of the gate.

Barcinas connected with another quick three ball at the start of the second half and teammate Preston Basa drained two more to give Wanna-Be's a comfortable distance, heading into the final minutes of the match. Kelvin Fitial scored 16 points in the second half in an effort to mount a Hoops' comeback, but Wanna-Be's simply would not be denied.

After hitting from outside for the majority of the match, Wanna-Be's went downlow to their center Jack Lizama late in the game. The Wanna-Be's big man then delivered 10 big points in the clutch to help seal the deal.

Lizama's 14 points led Wanna-Be's, which also got 11 and 10 markers from Barcinas and Basa. Fitial's 20 topped the box score for the Hoops and he was the lone double figure scorer for the losing team.

Wanna-Be's 52 – J. Lizama 14, Barcinas 11, Basa 10, Norita 5, Mendiola 4, Peters 4, P. Lizama 2, Teregeyo 2.

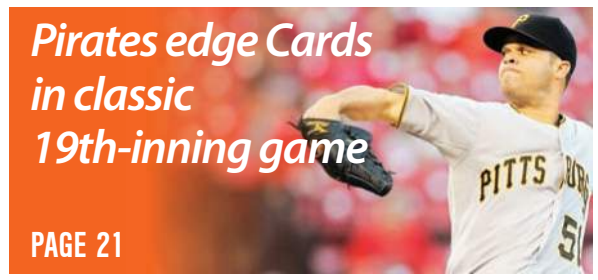
Hoops 41– Fitial 20, Lisua 6, Tenorio 6, Lauron 4, Ogumoro 2, Mendez 1.

Scoring by halves: 24-14, 52-41.

LeBron honored in minor league game

PAGE 22

Saipan Tribune Sports



Pirates edge Cards in classic 19th-inning game

PAGE 21

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Swim Club's Victoria, seen here in a local race early last year, will compete in the 2012 FINA World Swimming Championships in Istanbul, Turkey, this December.

Chentsova off to World Championships

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Another Saipan Swim Club member will be competing in the FINA World Swimming Championships.

Two years after former SSC bets Keanna Villagomez and Grace Kimball represented the CNMI to the short course (25-meter pool) tournament held in Dubai, it's now Victoria Chentsova's turn to plunge into action in the biennial event that will take place in Istanbul, Turkey this December.

SSC in a press statement said the 14-year-old Chentsova is one of the three swimmers Northern Marianas Swimming Federation selected to carry the Commonwealth's colors in the Dec. 12 to 16 competition. *Saipan Tribune* is still waiting for the names of the two other swimmers NMSF chose.

11th FINA WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS (25 m) 2012

Chentsova earned a ticket to the Turkey tournament after her notable performance in the 2011-2012 season. She was part of the lean CNMI Team (with Kimball and Rezne Wong) that joined the 14th FINA World Championships (long course) at the Shanghai Oriental Sports Center in China, in July last year, and set new personal best times in the 200 and 400 meter freestyle races in Shanghai after clocking in at 2:27.86 and 5:18.67, respectively.

The competition in China was her first international tournament and it was a bliss, as she was able to meet world –class swimmers, including Olympia Ryan Lochte of the United States.

See CHENTSOVA on Page 24

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Zhaila's All Starz' Tim Sula, right, dribbles and is chased at the sideline by Blue Haus' Joseph Galulu during the third quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Wanna-Be's vs Mobil in Summer Jam finals

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Wanna-Be's pulled off an upset over the Hoops, 52-41, in the second and final semis pairing in the 18A Summer Jam Friendly Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

With the victory, Wanna-Be's will face Mobil in the winner-take-all championship game this Saturday at 7pm at the Garapan court.

Wanna-Be's advanced to the last semis game after getting a win via forfeiture over the Hip Hop Thunder in the loser's bracket playoff game. The Hip Hop Thunder was declared ineligible to compete for not paying its entrance fee.

After receiving a free semis pass, Wanna-Be's went to work early and foiled the Hoops' repeated comeback bids to arrange a finals date against Mobil. Incidentally, the Hoops made it to

See WANNA-BE'S on Page 24

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Jack Lizama, pictured in this file photo taken earlier this year, led Wanna-Be's to a 52-41 semis victory over the Hoops in the Summer Jam caging last Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Two in a row for Zhaila's All Starz

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Zhaila's All Starz zoomed to its second straight victory after dominating Blue Haus, 92-79, in the curtain raiser in the 2012 DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

With the win, Zhaila's is now alone at the top of the team standings in Pool A, one

See TWO on Page 24

John Cruz takes SGA July Ace

John Cruz won the Saipan Golfers Association's July Ace after placing in the Top 3 of the club's monthly tournament held a few weeks ago at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

Cruz

Cruz carded a net 72 to finish third behind Juan L. Babauta (68) and Dash Krishnan (70), who had already taken monthly Ace titles so the former was automatically declared the July Ace winner.

Actually, Cruz was tied for third with four other golfers and SGA had to go through the scorecards to break

See JOHN on Page 24